

# PC parliamentaries prioritize penny-pinching

It is rumoured that Finance Minister Michael Wilson has been cast as Scrooge in this year's Parliament Hill production of *A Christmas Carol*. And Tiny Tim, the taxpayer, bereft of many benefits (including in some cases, his job) will find few coals over which to warm his tiny hands.

Charity begins at home, and stinginess begins somewhere north of the famous Mulroneys' chin. While the Liberals are undoubtedly to blame for everything that has happened in this country for the last 13 years, (give or take a few months), still it seems a vengeful justice that would disinherit the CBC, close down my favourite wildlife centre and charge ten dollars for a divorce.

On a more visceral level, I hear the Minister is planning to make the Parliamentary cafeteria more cost-efficient. This is something which I, an experienced cook and bottle-washer, understand. If they need me up there in Ottawa to supervise culinary cost-cutting, my vinyl flight-bag is all packed.

I need hardly add that right next to my sleepers, I packed my well-worn copy of *Your Money's Worth in Food*, a spicy government publication designed to make parsimony fun. Those recipes for Panned Cabbage, Parsnip Casserole and Pork Heart Chop Suey are kitchen skin-flintery incarnate.

One presumes the first step in making the cafeteria pay would be to eliminate the frills.

## Shirley Whittington



Members of Parliament don't need butter every day any more than the CBC needs money. So I'd substitute the lower priced spread except for high holidays like Sir John A. MacDonald's birthday and the anniversary of the September Revolution.

Except for the cost-efficient things like day-old doughnuts and apples, I think I'd cut desserts from the menu. Whipped cream and creme de menthe parfait just don't fit the Spartan pattern.

I've noticed that parsley, the universal garnish, is not favourite Canadian nosh, and is usually pushed aside to be tossed into the garbage. So I'd slash the parsley budget, and get some plastic stuff instead. Plastic parsley could be washed and sterilised for re-use along with the cutlery. It wouldn't be the real thing, but it would look good.

Canadian householders have learned all sorts of little tricks to outwit inflation, like powdered skim milk, no-name peanut butter and marked-down, slightly brown

cauliflower. None of these economies would be amiss in Ottawa.

Finally, it is my suggestion that they knock off some of those tulips on Parliament Hill and plant zucchini. That unkillable and most prolific of vines could be trained up the Peace Tower and around the roof of the Parliamentary Library, dripping succulent little Zeppelins all the way. Then parliamentarians could look forward to a cost-efficient winter of zucchini soup, zucchini bread, zucchini casserole and zucchini surprise.

It seems odd to me that in all this penny-pinching, belt-tightening shift to thrift, little has been said about the constantly changing scenery at Stornaway and 24 Sussex Drive. There, the Turners and the Mulroneys merrily knock out walls, wrench down drapes and rip up carpets in a manner that makes of mockery of austerity.

Don't those people know how to decorate on a budget? So the Mexican ambassador

dropped an enchilada on the carpet? So move the piano.

Somebody poked an elbow through the plaster? Hang a big picture.

The woodwork in the dining room looks grubby? Turn down the lights. Fingerprints and spotty carpets simply vanish, my dears, in candlelight. Our public rooms are so dimly lit that when we entertain, we issue white canes.

And what's this I hear about installing new bathroom sinks to fit the various Mulroneys' children? Does this mean every time a junior Jaw has a growth spurt, a plumber must be summoned? Can't somebody design a lavabo that goes up and down like a microphone stand? Haven't those people ever heard of little stools in the bathroom?

Finally, I offer the Whittington procrastination theory which has saved us untold decorating dollars. You simply put things off until you move. Think how much money would have been saved if the Clarks and Trudeaus had done that a couple of years ago!

If this government is serious about cost-cutting, and I suspect it is, it needs only look to the Canadian taxpayer for tips on creative scrimping. We've been doing it for years.

Ever wonder why the Canadian penny is decorated with leaves? Because that's what money, as soon as you get it, does.

# How to enjoy your senior years, topic of workshop

by ALLEYNEATTWOOD  
Midland-Penetang Diabetes Association held a day-long "workshop" entitled "How to enjoy your senior years", at Georgian Manor in Penetanguishene.

The program consisted of four guest speakers all of which were both informative and interesting to the approximately 40 people who attended this workshop.

Dr. Marilyn McTavish set the tone for the day with a particularly penetrating look at the problems of aging. She stressed

above all else "attitude" was the most important factor in how a person sees life and his or her relation to life. She also discussed the Doctor/Patient relationships, physical changes, friendships (which are very necessary) and housing.

Esther and Peter Addison spoke on "Elder Hostel", which is a concept of self-education for seniors. The Addisons described several of their experiences and advised that this has become a yearly event for them and a source of great pleasure.

They explained that

Elder Hostel is world wide, so that you meet a lot of interesting people, you stay in a university residence, many courses are made available to you, together with tours and other attractions arranged for your enjoyment. Mrs. Addison ended her presentation by saying "It is fine to reach out and give, but, one should also reach out and take."

Elise DeVillers a Penetanguishene lawyer discussed wills and power of attorney.

This session was well received. Elise answered many questions of concern regarding

these two topics.

Jim Martin a Penetanguishene funeral director for some 17 years talked about funerals.

He described pre-planning and pre-payment of funerals which many people were interested in. He stressed that there is a need at the time of death for a period of grief and that the ritual of funerals provides this.

It is an admission of death and a sharing of grief which helps to lessen the pain.

Bob Morfon the administrator of the Georgian Manor took time to explain the role

of Homes for the Aged, and, went on to give a history of the Georgian Manor, the services they offer and the costs to residents.

Another feature of the day was a presentation made by Mable Murphy in the way of a cheque for \$500 to the local branch.

She also donated \$500 to Diabetes Research.

Mrs. Murphy raised this money herself through a garage sale and raffle which was held during the past month. A wonderful effort by one person and it is greatly appreciated by our local branch.

It was altogether a

splendid day and the special effort put forward by the guest speakers was very much appreciated. We hope to do more

## The debates start Dec. 2

You may want to get a jump on this year's Christmas shopping so you'll have time to take in one or all seven all-candidates' debates starting next month in Ontario.

Candidates for the Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership, four of them so far, will first debate the issues in Thunder Bay, Dec. 2.

Other meetings are

planned for Ottawa, Dec. 6; North Bay, Dec. 8; Peterborough, Dec. 17; Kitchener, Jan. 8; London, Jan. 13 and Toronto, Jan. 16 eight days before the leadership convention in Toronto.

## Icy roads were at fault

Icy road conditions contributed to a single-car collision, Sunday evening on Highway 69 north of Six Mile Lake Provincial Park.

The driver, Michael J. Cyrwus, 24, of Brampton was slightly injured after his vehicle left the road and rolled over on its side.

## OPP kept hopping

You can chalk up another busy seven days for Midland OPP personnel.

During the week ending Nov. 12, OPP here investigated 71 general occurrences.

Eleven thefts, five break-ins, three assaults and two cases of wilful damage were included in the long list of occurrences.

## Missing truck recovered

Late Sunday night, Midland OPP were called out to investigate the theft of a truck from Cedar Point.

Owned by Katherine Blue of Midland, it was later located in a ditch along the Cedar Point Road.

Royce Grant King was later charged with impaired driving and with possession of stolen property.

He's to appear in Penetang court, Nov. 29. The vehicle in question is said to have received \$2,000 damage.

## Possession of narcotic charges laid by OPP

Shawn MacDonald, 23, of 676 King St., Midland and Bruce Edward Paul, 21, of the same address were charged by Midland OPP late last Thursday following an automobile check.

MacDonald, who appears in Penetang court tomorrow, was charged with possession of a narcotic and breach of probation.

Paul, who appears in Midland court next Monday, was charged with possession of a narcotic.

## Here's the telephone number to call: MTC

Ministry of Transportation and Communications has announced that its Winter Road Reporting Service for the public will go into operation on Monday, Nov. 19.

The Road Information Centre at Toronto and the ministry's offices throughout the province will have up-to-date information on the condition of all provincial and secondary highways 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week during the winter months.

Information on winter road conditions may be obtained around-the-clock by telephoning 1(705)-835-3014.

## Winter control sand here purchased for \$17,000-plus

Town of Midland has accepted the tender from K.J. Beamish Construction Co., for the supply of winter control sand for the total tendered price of \$17,395. (\$4.97 per tonne).

## Retired people on Island receive \$5,535 from Feds

A group of retired people from Christian Island will receive a New Horizons grant for \$5,535, Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp announced today.

Huronians will establish a program of activities including recreation, arts and crafts, preservation of cultural records and folklore, barbecues, lunches, pot-luck suppers and traditional native crafts taught by the elders.

New Horizons is a federal government program that enables retired people to create projects of their own choosing. It offers grants to groups who

undertake activities for the benefit of themselves and others in their community.

The accent is on local needs as seen by older people and on their willingness to meet such needs.

## MPD tells it the way it is

A total of 26 charges were laid under the Criminal Code of Canada last month in Midland.

As well, police records show, two charges were laid under the Narcotics Control Act, 10 under the Liquor Licence Act and 40 under the Highway Traffic Act including 21 for speeding on town streets.

# North Simcoe Newsbriefs

## Tree removal contract amounts to \$13,600

W.M. Weller Tree Service has won a \$13,600 contract from Town of Midland for tree trimming and removal and stump removal in the municipality.

## Motor-vehicle accidents in Midland total 26: Bates

A total of 19 reportable and seven non-reportable motor-vehicle accidents were investigated in Midland last month, police statistics issued by Chief Ernest Bates show.

As a result of many of the mishaps a total of 11 persons suffered a variety of injuries.

## YMCA gearing up for its annual upcoming fund raising campaign

Midland YMCA will be holding its annual fund drive Nov. 19 running through until Nov. 23.

On the planned agenda are door to door canvassing as well as "Campaign McKick-Off" on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Further information on scheduled events and where pledges can be made will appear in The Weekender.

Campaign Chairman Jim Blackwell welcomes all who wish to volunteer.

## Display by Big Brothers at Mountainview Mall

The Big Brothers organization will be holding a recruitment day at the Mountainview Mall on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Available to the public will be a staffed booth with both big and little brothers. Pamphlets and a video display will also outline the philosophy and typical activities involved in being a big brother.

Organizer, Linda Jefferies feels that examples are the best way to communicate what the Big Brother program can do for the young boy as well as the enjoyment it brings to the older person.

Presently, big brothers are in great demand in Victoria Harbour, Port McNicoll and Elmvale.

If anyone is interested but can't make it to the mall, Big Brothers has an office at 354 Midland Ave., which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. or call Linda at 526-5051.

## So you'd like to be premier of Ontario, eh?

If there are no other takers, it will be just a four-man race to succeed retiring Ontario Premier William Davis.

So far only Frank Miller, Roy McMurtry, Dennis Timbrell and Larry Grossman, all cabinet ministers in the Davis government, have signified a willingness to get into the fray.

The new leader will be picked at a convention in late January to be staged in Toronto.

## One centimetre of snow so far this November

On Nov. 2, Nov. 5 and Nov. 11 traces of snow fell on Midland-Penetanguishene amounting to one centimetre in total, reports Mel Curtis of Midland.

Since the mid-1940's, Mr. Curtis has been keeping track of snowfall reports for the provincial Atmospheric Environment Service.