

# Al McLean fights "double-dipping"

The MPP for Simcoe East has reintroduced a private member's bill which could suspend double retirement allowances. Al McLean introduced the bill during the last session of the legislature.

McLean thinks that people who are getting one government pension should have it suspended during periods when they are employed by the public service or any other government body.

The purpose of the bill is to end the practice whereby people who are receiving retirement pensions from the government are also being paid as a member of another govern-

ment commission, board, committee or other body. This is known as "double-dipping."

An example of this type of situation is one where a person has held a position and is now retired and receiving a government pension. Many of these then receive or obtain appointments to other "government" positions such as the Liquor Board, police or traffic commissions or a municipal position and are paid from the public purse while also receiving a pension paid in a large percentage from the same public purse, McLean says.

The MPP believes that

this is wrong, and that in such a case, the government pension should be withheld for the period of employment at the other government job. Any interest earned on the withheld funds would be tacked on to the public employee's pension when it began again.

McLean isn't saying whether he's confident about his bill passing this time around.

"It's hard to say what's going to happen. It's up to the government. If it's a priority to them, then it'll pass if not, it won't. They control the agenda."



## This is Christmas

ESPSS had no shortage of Christmas spirit when they held their annual Christmas concert. The stage band performed along with the concert band and perform-

ed some old and new standards with definite polish. ESPSS is to be congratulated for consistently presenting such enjoyable concerts



## Tearing up the floor

The newspaper carriers are treated well at Markle Community Newspapers, some would say better than the rest of the employees. The party which was organised for them at James Keating Elementary

School last Friday filled the gymnasium with enthusiastic kids. Organiser Jane Sanelli had hamburgers from McDonalds, cold Coke and hot pizza from Pizza Delight. About 40 carriers attended.

# Recycling programs are popular all over the province of Ontario

Tiny Council has endorsed a resolution from the Township of Peel which demands provincial legislation "to limit, curtail, and in some instances prohibit the manufacture, use and distribution of non-biodegradable and non-recyclable materials."

The clerk of the township, Christine Oosterveld, says it might be controversial to ban the manufacture of some items since "when you attempt to eliminate production of something you are also eliminating jobs too."

Oosterveld says what prompted the resolution was an enthusiasm for recycling. "In the small towns, recycling programs have really taken off," she says.

The situation in Peel

which the clerk describes is remarkably similar to our own in North Simcoe. The township is sending its garbage to Guelph, a place which Oosterveld admits is "the last place where we wanted our garbage to go."

She says industries should have been encouraged "much sooner" to start recycling. But since they have been exhorted to participate, industrial waste has been reduced by 50 per cent.

Oosterveld says the Peel resolution demands that the need for a clean society and the liking of a disposal one bifurcate.

"We're a throw-away society and we just can't be anymore."

Colin Isaacs, the executive director of Pollution Probe, says there has

never been a better environment to encourage people to recycle.

"People are unbelievably eager to recycle as long as you make it sufficiently easy for them."

Isaacs says urban areas have participation rates of 80 to 90 per cent, small towns are achieving high levels too but rural areas are lagging behind somewhat.

In Kitchener for instance, the recycling bin is placed on the back of the garbage truck, something which Isaacs says is achieving "spectacular results."

Katherine Pigott of the Ontario Recycling Organization says South-West Oxford may well be the most successful recycling case study in the pro-

vince. Recycling is mandatory there in the town of 8,300 people.

"In order to have your garbage picked up you have to separate the recyclables," she explains.

If this is not done, a red sticker is put on recyclable objects and the garbage is not taken away.

There's a very high participation rate.

"Obviously since people want their garbage taken away, they are going to cooperate," Pigott says.

In Mississauga, where 80-85 per cent of the people participate in recycling, Pigott says only 10 per cent of the waste is diverted.

This is due to the city's status as Canada's fastest growing city and she says "it's hard to keep up with the growth."

# Daycare operator doubtful about effectiveness of plan

The operator of the Prime Time Nursery School, a daycare centre with offices in Penetanguishene and Midland, says a new child care program from the federal government is inadequate. Terrie-Anne Westerlaken says "I don't think it will help that much."

The government initiative is entitled a National Strategy on Child Care and promises to spend \$5.4 billion over the next seven years. After this initial period has elapsed, \$1 billion is planned to be allocated annually.

Of the plan Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp said, "The program will recognize child care as a

social and economic priority for Canadian families. The goals of the strategy will give parents the choice in caring for their children and will improve the availability, affordability and quality of child care offered."

A new Canadian Child Care Act will be introduced to fund the building of 200,000 new child care spaces.

About \$100 million will be spent on research and development projects with a view to improving and quality and flexibility of child care.

In addition, tax breaks will be given to families with young children.

But Westerlaken says the thrust of the campaign is

directed at the creation of non-profit daycare centres.

"The focus of this program should be to subsidise the individual people who need the service."

She says it would be better to give a single mother \$65 a week to pay for daycare.

"That way she doesn't have to stay at home and be dependent on welfare. It's a great help to the taxpayers when you allow mothers to keep on working."

Westerlaken would like to see more money available for centres like Prime Time, "to prompt people like ourselves to open up new daycare centres."

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