

Black still defending budget

Despite widespread criticism, Muskoka-Georgian Bay's MPP continues to support the recent Ontario budget.

Ken Black told Midland Rotarians last week that Ontario is the most prosperous it has been in years. "If we don't reduce the deficit now and spend

on hospitals and schools, when do we?" he asked.

Ontario has the highest per capita investment in health care in the world, he said.

Hospitals are going to be forced to spend within their budgets. There is no question that some reduction in service will result,

he said.

The government will work with hospitals to help the institutions stay within their budgets, he said.

Health care is a sensitive issue, he noted. Former premier Frank Miller got in trouble when he tried to close some hospitals, he said.

Black's views on other issues of the day:

•Free trade - The Ontario Liberals remain in favor of free trade, but opposed to the proposed free trade treaty between Canada and the United States. Canada will be paying a big price for

something it is not sure it will get in return, said the local MPP. The Ontario Liberals were determining whether the treaty could be challenged in court, he said.

•Meech Lake - Both his party and Black support the Meech Lake agreement. It was described as a fulfillment of the promise made by English Canada when Quebecers voted against separation. Power is neither subtracted from the federal government nor added to the provinces, Black noted. The Meech Lake agreement recognizes the reality that Quebec is the natural homeland of the French Canadian, and that Quebec is a distinct society, he said.

•Sunday Shopping - The

Ontario Liberals' position on Sunday shopping hasn't changed, said Black. What is new is that every municipality has the option to allow Sunday shopping. Midland, because of its location in a tourist area, could have had Sunday shopping since 1976, he said.

(Several businesses which have applied to the town council to be open Sunday have been granted that wish.)

Black said he has established himself as a "heckler" in what he joked is one of the most boring places to be in Toronto: the Ontario Legislature.

'Simcoe Region' is Stewart's fear

A committee which is studying the restructuring of counties in Ontario will be at the Simcoe County Council building on June 22. Penetanguishene's reeve is suspicious.

"It looks like they going to sneak regional government on us," Art Stewart

told his fellow Penetanguishene councillors.

The committee will meet with Simcoe County council members in the morning. The afternoon is set aside for hearing from others.



Posture is important

May 25 was Participation Day. Midland Library reference librarian Marion Locke completes the slower leg of the obstacle course set up inside the

library before opening time. Miniature golf was played on the third floor.

Harbour legion congratulated by councillors

by Barb Skelton

"It has been brought to my attention that a remark was made by one of you that the Royal Canadian Legion did absolutely nothing for this village. This took place at one of your meetings."

So begins a letter from Frank Murphy, president of the Victoria Harbour Legion, to the village council.

The council considered the letter at their May 11 special meeting.

The councillors present agreed that none of them had made such a remark either in council or in committee, nor had any of them ever heard such a remark.

Included in Murphy's

letter was a considerable list of donations and services provided to the village by the Legion in the last five months.

Reeve Bob Moreau graciously sympathized: "We're sorry that got said but we don't think it came from this council."

The council was pleased to learn of the contributions of the Legion. They appreciate the Legion's efforts and thanked them, especially for the \$1,500 to buy equipment for the village's volunteer firefighters.

Moreau added with a smile that on council you can get into trouble even when you don't do anything.



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BALANCES	ANNUAL RATE
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BALANCES	ANNUAL RATE
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120-179	7.50%	8%
180-269	8%	8.25%
270-364	8.25%	8.50%

Midland 248 King St. 526-4296 - Marie Bell

Mon-Thurs 9:00-5:30 Friday 9:00-6:00 Saturday 9:00-1:00

Mountainview Mall 526-2273 - Sheila Webb

Mon-Thurs 9:30-5:30 Friday 9:30-8:00 Saturday 9:30-1:00