

Honorable Greg Sorbara, MPP York North

First six months were busy time

The end of 1985 also marks the conclusion of the first six months of the provincial Liberal government's mandate. York North MPP Greg Sorbara takes this opportunity to review some highlights of the current legislative session.

The following are his comments on a variety of issues:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — On Nov. 25, 1985, the Minister of Agriculture and Food signed the first national tripartite stabilization agreement for red meat packers with the federal government. Ontario is the first province in Canada to enter this voluntary income assurance plan designed to protect beef, lamb and pork producers in times of low commodity prices.

The Minister also introduced

the Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Reduction Program, providing \$50 million to help farmers service their long-term debts.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — The Attorney General has announced the establishment of a one-year automatic suspension for a first impaired driving conviction and a two-year suspension for a second conviction. These penalties are four times longer than those currently provided by the law.

ENVIRONMENT — In the government's very first week in the Legislature, the Spills Bill was proclaimed and came into full effect on Nov. 29, 1985. This act will protect innocent victims of chemical spills and ensure immediate clean-up.

In one of the boldest initiatives

yet seen by any government in North America, Environment Minister Jim Bradley ordered Ontario's four main producers of sulphur dioxide, which causes acid rain, to reduce their emissions substantially by 1994. This new program is called Countdown Acid Rain. About 80 per cent of Ontario-produced emissions come from four sources: Ontario

Hydro and metal companies Falconbridge, Inco and Algoma Steel. In 1980, the four corporations produced 1,993 kilotonnes of sulphur dioxide. Through the Minister's directions, they will produce no more than 665 kt in 1994.

Countdown Acid Rain demonstrates the government's commitment to solving our own acid rain

emission problems in Ontario. It also provides a precedent for the United States to follow, since the U.S. is the source of as much as half the acid rain that's destroying the province's lakes, streams and forests.

As well, the government recently announced a \$487,000 health study of the Whitechurch-Stouffville landfill site—a matter of particular interest to the residents of York North.

HEALTH — Maintaining a first-class health care system and providing access to all who need it is a priority for the Liberal party. In order to make this promise a reality, the government is committed to banning extra billing. This measure was just introduced and will become law sometime in the new year.

LABOR — The Ministry of Labor issued a Green Paper on Pay Equity, inviting comments on the means by which the principle of equal pay for work of equal value can be established in the private sector.

FREE TRADE — At the First Ministers' Conference at Halifax, N.S., in late November, Premier David Peterson introduced three main proposals dealing with free trade. He stated that: (1) There must be meaningful participation for all provinces in any trade talks with the United States. (2) That a common base of information should be established. (3) The provinces should strengthen trade ties within Canada. As a result of the conference, Premier Peterson achieved recognition from the federal government that the provinces must be involved in the decision-making process.

More good news on a job-related front is the expansion of the Honda Motor Company plant in Alliston. This development guarantees more jobs for that area.

REVIEW

Looking back over the year, the

one word that I would use to describe it is "exciting." Beginning back in April with my nomination in King City as Liberal candidate for York North, my election as your member of provincial parliament; the creation of Ontario's first Liberal government in 42 years; and my appointments as Minister of Skills, Development and Minister of Colleges and Universities—it's been a whirlwind of a year. And one that I have enjoyed immensely!

As your representative at Queen's Park, I am always anxious to know of your concerns and interests. To this end, I maintain constituency offices in the riding at: 79 Yonge Street South in Aurora (727-1985) and at 124 Woodbridge Avenue, 2nd Floor, in Woodbridge (851-7401). These offices are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. I'm in one of them each Saturday morning, alternating between Aurora one week and Woodbridge the next.

Please feel free to drop in and meet me there. If you can't do so, you need only call either of the offices. The staff is extremely knowledgeable and ready to serve you in any way they can.

As 1985 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to each of you the warmest Season's Greetings. I hope the holidays will be an especially joyful period for you and the new year will be a happy and healthy one.

Dance!

STOUFFVILLE — The Dance Centre, 51 Main Street West, is holding registration for its winter fitness session Monday, Jan. 6. Times are 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Participants can also sign-up for the program on Jan. 7 and 8, between 1 and 3 p.m. only.



Greg Sorbara, MPP for York North, describes 1985 as "a whirlwind of a year." It held many personal highlights, including his upset election victory and subsequent appointment as Minister of both Skills Development and Colleges and Universities.

Winners selected in Tribune draw

Rosemarie Timms of Claremont is one of three winners of a free subscription to The Tribune.

The others are John and Linda Cooper, Balsam Boulevard, Mus-selman's Lake, and Robert Edgington of Ingleside, Ont.

The draw was part of a special pre-Christmas open house at The Tribune office Dec. 23 and 24.

The winning entries were selected Friday by staff reporter Chris Shanahan.

Many shoppers took advantage of the newspaper's offer to drop in and enjoy a cup of hot cider and mince-meat tarts. Tribune staff members enjoyed visiting with the friendly customers while serving refreshments.

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