

Comment & Opinions

Thursday, May 8, 1997
Vol. 109 No. 20

Send your letters
to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Good news budget gives taxpayer lift that's long overdue

It's been a hard couple of years, but it would appear Ontarians are going to get a break.

Ernie Eves presented his "good news" budget this week, and in the process lightened the load of the average taxpayer in the Durham-York area in the process. The Tories promised cuts in taxes appear to be as good as in our pockets where they should be.

Local MPP Julia Munro was understandably excited about being able to tell the local business community about the budget this week. "I am proud of this budget," said Munro, adding that the "tax-and-spend legacy of previous governments had been put to rest.

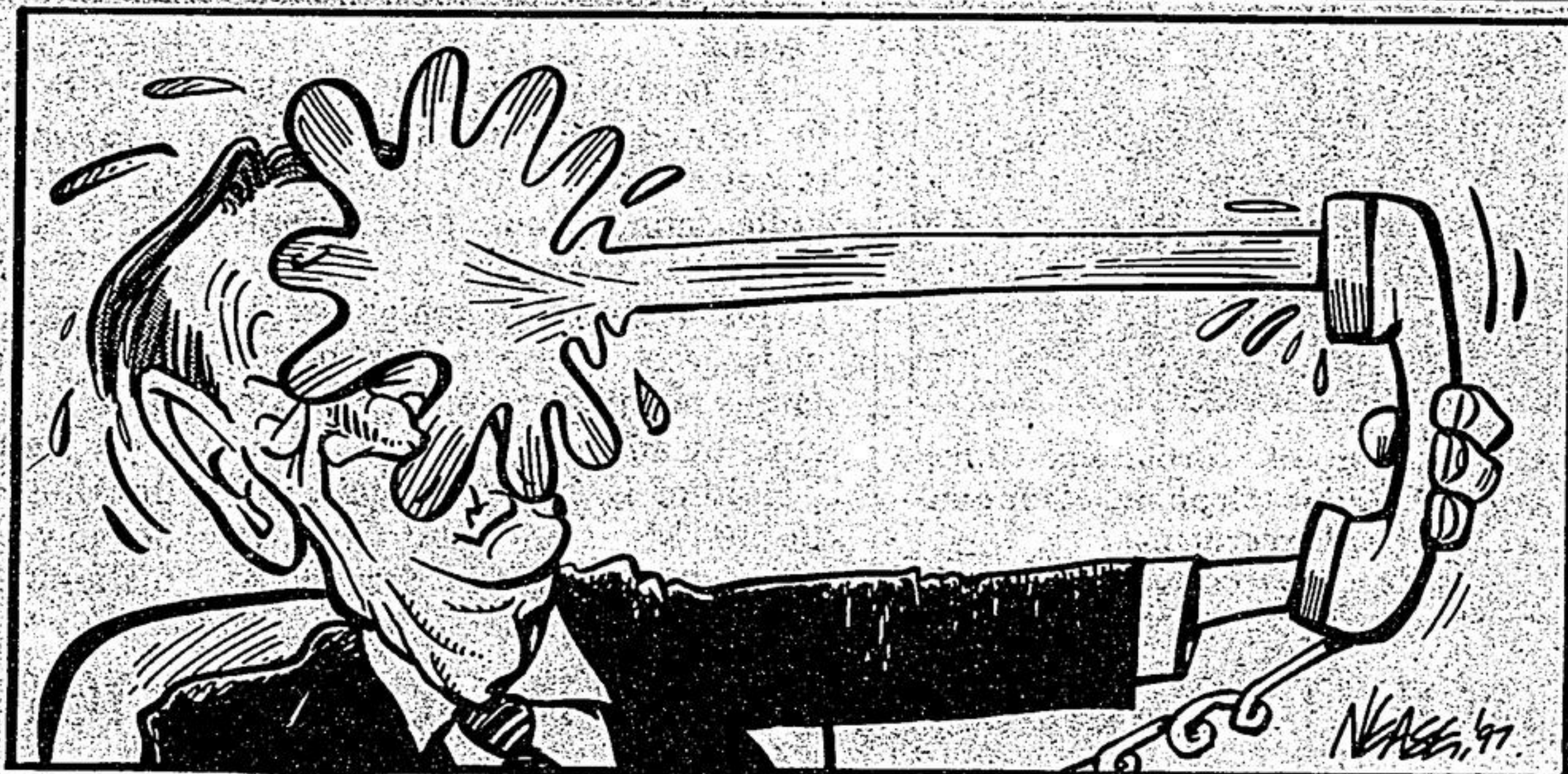
Not all is rosy, however.

The budget does indicate that while 193,000 fewer people were on the social assistance roles, it doesn't mention that many of these people have left the province, left the roles for other reasons or have simply given up.

As well, the Tories are not exactly breaking the speed barrier in creating new employment. The disappointment in this regard was evident in Eves' speech, but he said he was certain the situation would improve once the full 30 per cent tax cut was in place by 1998/99.

Still, Ontario is the engine that drives the country's economy and this area is the piston of that motor. Jobs are vital to this region, and new employment opportunities here can only help the entire province and country, too.

With the tax break in place and the trouble with unemployment we'd have give this budget a B.



A re-introduction of sorts

Mark Twain once said something about how he could have become a newspaper editor but thanked God every day for not making him one.

I, on the other hand, frequently do the opposite.

As the new Editor-in-Chief of this paper, I thought I'd better take a moment of your time to re-introduce myself, or at least, re-aquaint faithful readers in with my mission.

Many of you know have been kind enough to call me or stop me on the street to wish me well. I thank you sincerely.

I intend to redefine the role of the Editor-in-Chief of the paper and I would like your help.

I have been fortunate in my career, having met hundreds of terrific people from this area. I hope to meet many more.

I plan to get to as many events and functions as possible, and to meet as many of our readers as I can. I think it's important to know who is taking the time to peruse your publication.

We are planning many great things in the coming months, and I hope you will call or write to tell me what you think.

A newspaper, in my view, must be the mirror of the community it serves. It must play a pro-active role in the development of the community and work to building a sense of community spirit. This has been, and will continue to be one of my goals.

I also believe newspapers



Minute with Mair

Andrew Mair

must be interactive. I would like to see the community contribute more to the paper.

A sure sign of a healthy paper is when its letters box is overflowing.

With the advent of the Internet and e-mail, there are now even more avenues for you to contact us. As they say, keep those cards and letters coming.

If there's one thing I've learned working at small town newspapers is that people must be the focus. Readers want to see themselves, their families and neighbors profiled in the local paper.

That is the great strength of the community papers over the dailies. And that's what I'd like to bring to your newspaper.

As the old detective pot-boiler tag line goes: There's a million stories in the city. Well, we want to know all of them. I encourage all readers to drop me a line sometime, or stop in to see me.

It is my mission to make your community paper the best it can be.

I hope I can live up to your expectations.

'I almost hit a child today'

To the Editor,
ALMOST:

Today, I almost hit a child. Almost. It was close. Very close. I confess that I've been close before. But never this close. It scared me this time. And afterwards I was upset. I'm still upset. Luckily, I missed.

I was driving out of the little subdivision where I live and had to, as a matter of routine, navigate around a set of hockey nets placed in the middle of the road. That part has become "normal". I slow down, and I watch for the players who rarely stop while a car passes.

But this is springtime, and the skateboard ramps and obstacles are a fair-weather addition to this part of the street. Now both parties have a deal with less space and more movement. Although I see it all, I'm not used to the difference. I shift my gaze to the small group of in-line skaters over on the right, for that is where I have to drive, and I'm sure that they haven't seen me yet. Suddenly, another player swoops in from the left, out and across the front of my car. She is turning out and away now, but is she had stopped or turned in. Well, I would have hit a child.

I grew up on a street where ball-hockey was cherished and revered (east-end Toronto), although I recall that we always placed the nets against the curbs. I grew up within walking distance of a schoolyard, but we rarely played there. And yes, there was a neighbour who occasionally called the police, but we learned how to spot for them.

We also developed a set of guidelines, in the

LETTERS

absence of parental guidance, that kept us out of trouble with cars. On our street, to the best of my recollections, there were two families related to small children running out from behind parked cars. I have seen the "transference of momentum" principle in effect as a person is "bumped" by a car. I myself have been bumped twice while riding a bicycle across the city.

Now I'm in the awkward position of having to use my "street-smarts" from the other side of the activity, without being considered a "crank".

Oddly enough, my concern goes out to the children and their friends. I am reasonably sure that I won't be the one to hit a child. It will probably be a visitor to the neighborhood, or someone taking a traffic short-cut. They (children or driver) won't be looking.

And in the aftermath, the rules and regulations and laws will proclaim something or other, and will likely miss a key point of accountability.

The parents, the neighbors, the friends and myself all have a duty of accountability that is persistently ignored on this street. We all assume that it's someone else's responsibility to teach these kids that respect for the road is not the same as ownership.

And that is what leaves me upset today. I almost hit a child.
Almost.

Erik Little

STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Patricia Pappas
Publisher

Andrew Mair
Editor-In-Chief
Alan Shackleton
Editor

Debra Weller
Director of Advertising
Mike Rogerson
Retail Advertising Manager
Stacey Allen
Classified Manager

Barry Goodyear
Director of Distribution

Vivian O'Neil
Business Manager

Pamela Nichols
Operations Manager

about us

News
(905) 640-2100
Retail sales
(905) 640-2100
Classifieds
(905) 640-2874
Distribution
(905) 640-2100
Fax
(905) 640-5477
E-Mail
thetrib@istar.ca
6244 Main St.
Stouffville, Ont.
L4A 1E2

The Stouffville Tribune publishes every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It is a part of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution group of community newspapers which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald-Gazette, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Centre, Collingwood/Georgian Bay/Orillia News, Oakville Mirror, Stouffville Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Action, Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham/Bookhamilton & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora News, Peterborough News, Simcoe News, North York Mirror, Gateway, Beaver, Grills, Today, Ontario Weekly, Hamilton Post, The Week, Richmond Hill/Toronto/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, and The Daily Tribune. Today's Ontario. The Stouffville Tribune is a member of the Ontario Newspaper Guild. The Stouffville Tribune reserves the right to accept or classify advertising material in space. The above constitutes



Letters Policy

The Tribune welcomes your letters to the editor. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Note that letters may be edited for space, libel, spelling, grammar. While we endeavor to print as many letters as possible, we regret that not all letters may be printed.