

# New finance minister ready to hit province's books

BY MITCHELL BROWN  
Staff Writer

Greg Sorbara admits it's not a job where one readily makes friends.

But the newly installed finance minister says he's ready and raring to get at the province's books.

"I'm feeling very honoured and a little bit humbled by how much work has to be done," Mr. Sorbara said, "but also excited about the prospect of doing a good job in this new government."

The MPP for Vaughan-King-Aurora was among the Liberal cabinet ministers sworn in Thursday morning at Queen's Park.

## FORMER STOUFFVILLE MPP

Mr. Sorbara was the MPP for Whitchurch-Stouffville, in the former riding of York-North, in the late 1980s.

Premier Dalton McGuinty, the province's first Liberal premier in 13 years, was also on hand to take the oath of office before Lt. Gov. James Bartleman.

"My first words as premier are to the people of Ontario: Thank you for the work you have entrusted to us," he said after the ceremony.

"Thank you for the work that you do every day. We are honoured to work for you because we've seen you work. Our gov-



**GREG SORBARA:** Former Stouffville-area MPP earns finance minister post in new Liberal government.

ernment will be as tireless as you are."

As proof, Mr. McGuinty, after a brief meeting with his cabinet, instructed his new finance minister to take all steps necessary to freeze auto insurance rates, one of his key election promises during the campaign.

"We did make a campaign commitment to freeze auto insurance rates and we're going to make good on that when legislature resumes," he said, adding that will happen Nov. 19.

There was little doubt among party watchers that Mr. Sorbara, president of the

provincial Liberal party and widely credited as one of the architects behind the Liberals' successful campaign, would assume a major position in Mr. McGuinty's administration.

First elected to the legislature in 1985, he was defeated in 1995 but won a 2001 by-election following the death of Tory MPP Al Palladini.

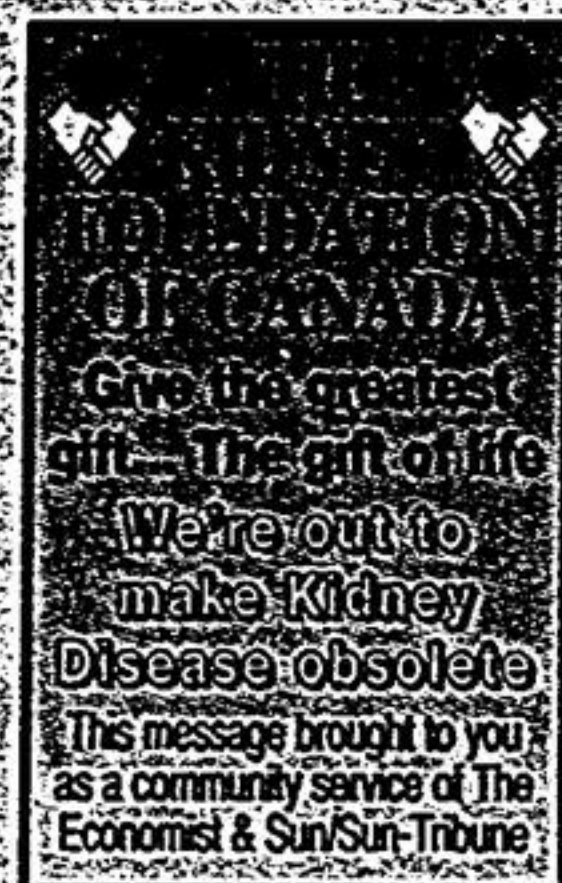
In then-premier David Peterson's cabinet during the 1980s, Mr. Sorbara was responsible for several portfolios, including labour and consumer and commercial relations.

## 'DISCUSSION WITH DALTON'

"I had a discussion with Dalton about a week after the election and I made it clear I would do whatever he needed me to do," Mr. Sorbara said.

*"There is no doubt there will be significant demands on my time."*

"The fact is, Dalton and I have worked very closely over the past couple of years and I have a huge amount of confidence in him and I'm honoured he has this same confidence in me."



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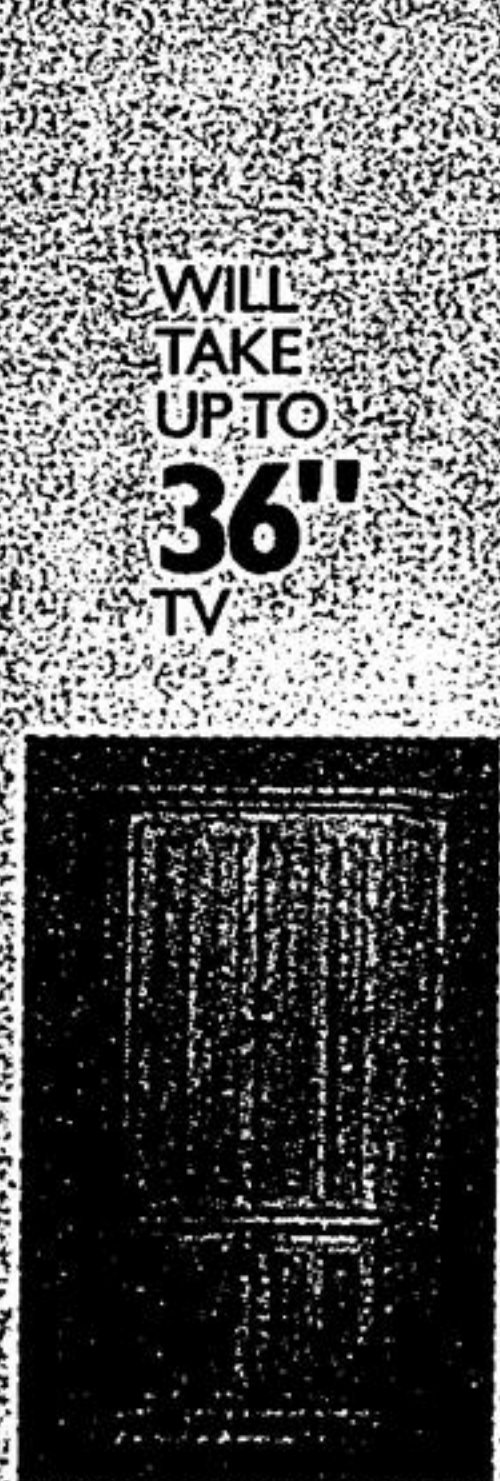
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