

CORRECTION Hearing on in murder charge

An error occurred in a story Jan. 20 updating second-degree murder charges against Paul Kenyon. A preliminary hearing began in Newmarket this week. Mr. Kenyon is accused of killing Marion Deacon, 46, in Gormley last year. The Sun-Tribune regrets the error.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON
MPP Jim Wilson brought his campaign to Main Street Monday.

MPPs differ on hydro debt

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Downtown Stouffville was stop No. 20-something Monday for Conservative MPP Jim Wilson, who was on a six-day, 40-city tour calling for a forensic audit of Ontario Hydro's \$7.8-billion debt retirement charge.

Stouffville families pay between \$67 and \$84 a year towards the debt retirement, which was instituted by Mr. Wilson when he was energy minister in 2002.

"I don't regret restructuring Ontario Hydro. It was bankrupt. I mean, it couldn't pay its own bills and we wanted to keep it as an economic engine," Mr. Wilson said.

The debt was scheduled to be paid off in 2012, according to Mr. Wilson.

"It should have been a good news story. Finally, (the) government paid off some debt and then the debt charge would drop," he said.

But now, the Liberal government does not anticipate the debt coming off the books until between 2015 and 2018.

"Without explanation, they have repeatedly pushed back the debt repayment date, at a cost to Ontario families of around \$1 billion per year," Mr. Wilson said.

The reality, according to Helena Jaczek, Liberal MPP for Oak Ridges-Markham is the residual stranded debt her government inher-

ited was \$20.5 billion, not \$7.8 billion.

The Tories are isolating just the residual stranded debt without acknowledging the rest of the stranded debt left to the Liberals, according to Ms Jaczek.

The government has reduced the debt by \$1 billion each year since 2003 and it is on target to put another \$1 billion toward the debt for the 2010/2011 fiscal year, she said.

That decrease has also meant \$408 million a year in interest has been paid, she said.

"We feel we're managing the debt we inherited from the Conservative government," Ms Jaczek said, adding customers are now paying more of the true cost of hydro.

Mr. Wilson, the MPP for Simcoe-Grey, took on the 40-city tour at the request of Ontario PC leader Tim Hudak, who wants to look at ways of reducing people's hydro bills.

"It's the No. 1 issue with people right now," Mr. Wilson said. "Mr. McGuinty has backed down on things before, like sex-ed for little kids and we think he'll backtrack on this if we put enough pressure. That is what I'm trying to do."

As of Jan. 1, customers are receiving 10 per cent off their hydro bills through the Clean Energy Benefit and the start of off-peak hours for time-of-use electricity was changed from 9 to 7 p.m. on weeknights.

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- By using the downloading option from the Region's website (www.york.ca/NADF) or;
- By visiting the York Region Administrative Centre, Supplies and Services Branch, First Floor, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

An **Information Meeting** will be held on **Monday, February 14, 2011 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** in the Seminar Room (first floor) at the York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket. Pre-registration is not required.

The deadline for proposal submission is: Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 1 p.m. prompt.

Late submissions will not be accepted

For more information:

- Visit www.york.ca/NADF
- Contact the York Region's Supplies and Services Branch at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 1669

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