



# Business & Finance



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## Tory announces plan to provide stability to homeowners

Progressive Conservative Leader and local MPP John Tory announced a plan to protect Ontario homeowners from runaway property assessment increases that put some people at risk of losing their homes.

"The property assessment system in Ontario has spiralled out of control and is hurting homeowners," said Tory. "Many families worry that skyrocketing increases

to their property assessments may soon leave them unable to afford to continue living in their own homes."

Tory and PC finance critic Tim Hudak announced the plan at the Toronto home of Gordon and Marian Cook, a retired couple who have experienced a property assessment increase of more than 37% in the past three years. Under Dalton McGuinty's current

approach, the Cook family could face skyrocketing property assessments and a huge increase in 2008 after the election when a McGuinty government freeze ends. Tory's plan would protect them and other homeowners by:

- \* Establishing a 5% annual cap on property assessment increases for as long as an individual owns their home (including if a property is transferred to a spouse).

- \* Implementing a new reverse onus appeal system so the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will have to justify an assessment increase instead of placing the burden of proof on the homeowner.

- \* Ensuring MPAC fully implements the recommendations of the Ombudsman, and if the serious problems identified by the Ombudsman have not been

addressed, shutting down MPAC and building a better model.

Tory also said a PC government will also address rural assessment inequalities that currently penalize Ontario farmers. The PC policy will ensure that farmers who are encouraged to have value-added production services are not subject to unfair property tax assessments.

"These measures are practical, realistic and fair. They are the result of real consultations with homeowner groups and they are an important first step towards giving Ontario's property taxpayers a long overdue break," said Tory. "This plan stands in stark contrast with Dalton McGuinty's approach which, in short, has been to do nothing."



### DUFFERIN - PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SUB-CONTRACTORS FOR THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITIONS

The Board proposes to construct additions to the following three Elementary Schools:

St. John the Baptist Elementary School (Bolton) consists of 2 storey, 6 classroom addition of approximately 667sq. m. and minimal site work.

St. Faustina Elementary School (Mississauga) consists of a 2 storey, 4 classroom addition of approximately 442 sq. m. and minimal site work.

St. Nicholas Elementary School (Bolton) consists of a 2 storey, 6 classroom addition of approximately 570 sq. m. and minimal site work.

Proposals shall be based upon CCDC Document No.11 as well as supplementary documentation to demonstrate managerial, safety and financial-bonding capabilities. Only Mechanical and Electrical Sub-contractors who have been completely responsible for the installation of mechanical systems of not less than \$50,000 and/or for the installation of electrical systems of not less than \$30,000 for school additions or similarly complex building, additions will be considered.

Mechanical and Electrical Sub-contractors interested in being pre-qualified to bid the work MUST submit the following:

- Completed CCDC Document No. 11, including listing of similar completed projects, brief system description, etc.
- Management staff resumes assigned to project.
- Letter from a nationally recognized Surety Company stating total bonding limit and confirming availability of required Bonding for this project- 50% Performance Bond based upon sub-trade tender amount.
- Letter authorizing DPDCSB to obtain financial information from institutions on the application.

Tenders will be invited from the list of pre-qualified Sub-contractors only, on a school by school basis. Combined tenders will not be accepted. The pre-qualification process will include an assessment of previous performance in a number of areas, including but not limited to: similar work, scheduling, management, workmanship, final completion, system fine tuning, and correction of deficiencies. Prequalification information shall be submitted to the Architect not later than 12:00 noon:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007**

Envelopes labeled Mechanical/Electrical Sub-Contractor Prequalification Submission for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, & delivered to:

**CS&P ARCHITECTS INC.**

2345 YONGE STREET, SUITE 200 TORONTO, ON  
416-482-5002

Submissions received after the closing deadline will not be accepted. The Board reserves the right to select and approve only those Subcontractors that the Board deems suitable for the project.

B. IANNICCA  
Chairperson of the Board

M. G. BATOR  
Director of Education



**DAVID TILSON, MP**  
DUFFERIN-CALEDON

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## Hire a Student!

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### Canada Summer Jobs Initiative

The **New Canada Summer Jobs Initiative** provides wage subsidies to enable not-for-profit, public and small, private sector employers with 50 or fewer employees to create career-related summer jobs for students between the ages of 15 and 30 at the start of employment. It helps students who need it the most, including Aboriginal youth, visible minorities, youth with disabilities, and those living in communities with high youth unemployment rates; small urban, rural, or remote areas; and/or high crime areas.

The **New Canada Summer Jobs Initiative** helps employers create jobs that will meet their needs while benefiting the young people most in need of employment assistance. Eligibility criteria can be found at [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca).

**Postmark deadline for employers to submit their application is MARCH 30, 2007.**

For more information on the New Canada Summer Jobs Initiative:

**Click on [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca)**

Orangeville 519-941-1832

Bolton 905-857-6080

1-866-941-1832

[www.davidtilson.ca](http://www.davidtilson.ca)

## Millcroft hosts winemaker's dinner

Food and wine-lovers take note. Saturday, April 14, The Millcroft Inn & Spa will host the second installment of its 2007 Winemaker's Dinner Series with a dinner event featuring the wines of Stratus Vineyards.

This event will include a delectable six-course dinner menu, featuring the award-winning Four Diamond cuisine of Millcroft executive chef Roberto Fracchioni. Each course will be paired with one of Stratus Vineyards' premium vintages. Guests will also enjoy an informative and entertain-

ing presentation by J.L. Groux, Stratus Vineyards' winemaker.

This is a great event for lovers of fine wines and exceptional cuisine.

Reception begins at 6:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. Advance bookings are required for this event and the price is \$150 per person, plus taxes and gratuities. (Price includes the six-course dinner and all wine pairings).

Overnight accommodations are also available for participants at a special rate starting at \$206 per room per night (plus taxes and gratuities), and include a country continental breakfast buffet the following morning.

To make an inquiry, or to reserve your table and/or room, e-mail [millcroft@millcroft.com](mailto:millcroft@millcroft.com) or call (519) 941-8111 or 1-800-383-3976.

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David Halwig

[david@caledoncitizen.com](mailto:david@caledoncitizen.com)

(boxed classified and display advertising)

**Telephone 905-857-6626**

**Fax 905-857-6363**

## Rezoning is approved

Oxford Homes was recently granted a rezoning by Caledon council for 56 lots located on the south side of Walker Road West, west of Airport Road, in Caledon East.

In rezoning the 56 lots, the applicant wants to increase the maximum building area to 50 per cent from 45 per cent for a bungalow, and to increase the maximum garage width of a detached dwelling from 50 per cent of the width of a detached garage to varying amounts based on the lot frontage.