

# Caledon Citizen

Covering all of Caledon  
Distributed throughout the  
Town of Caledon, the Citizen  
is published every Thursday in the year  
by Caledon Publishing Ltd.  
Copyright Caledon Citizen 2008

Owned and Operated by  
Caledon Publishing Limited

25 Queen Street, North,  
Bolton L7E 1C1

Phone: 905-857-6626  
Toll Free: 1-888-557-6626  
Fax: 905-857-6363  
www.caledoncitizen.com

## Publisher:

BRUCE R. HAIRE

## Editorial

Managing Editor

BILL REA

editor@caledoncitizen.com

## Reporters

Jonathan Yaneff

j.yaneff@caledoncitizen.com

Anneleen Naudts

a.naudts@kingsentinel.com

## Advertising

Director of Sales

JOHN ARCHIBALD

Sales Reps

BETH WILSON

sales@caledoncitizen.com

Annette Derraugh

Diann Gaston

Nancy Stenhouse

## Business

Office Administrator

CHERYL PHILLIPS

admin@caledoncitizen.com

Janice Côte

## Composing

Manager

KRISTEN HAIRE

Ad Designers

Penny Gilbertson

Joanne Radyk-Carrick

Lisa Rosati

Brian Valdock

## Subscriptions:

\$37.50 + G.S.T. within 65 km  
\$54.00 + G.S.T. beyond 65 km and  
in towns with letter carriers

Printed by Central Ontario  
Web Ltd., 705-733-1349

**ADVERTISING RULES:** The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors which do not lessen the value of the advertisement are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

**DEADLINES:** Unfortunately deadlines do not allow us to take ads after the following specified times:  
**DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED ADS: Tuesday 5 p.m.**

All ads must be paid in advance by deadline or the ad will not run. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD & AMEX PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE.

The CALEDON CITIZEN is a member of the Ontario Press Council, an independent body set up by the newspapers of the province to uphold freedom of expression and deal with complaints from readers. The Press Council encourages complainants to first give the newspaper an opportunity to redress their grievances. If not satisfied, they may then write to the Council, enclosing a copy of material that is the subject of the complaint, at 80 Gould St., Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5A 4L8.



## Editorial

# The budget was boring, but responsible

Accepting the very reality that we could be having a federal election some time this year, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, presumably under the marching orders of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, could have taken two basic approaches to last week's budget.

He could have filled it with goodies for individuals like us, and hoped that people would remember them if and when they go to the polls in 2008. Or he could have come up with something bland, uninteresting, with few goodies for the average taxpayers, but numerous indications that Harper, Flaherty and company are good managers of the public purse, and hope that's what people remember if they have ballots to mark later this year.

Flaherty chose the second option, and while it made for a rather boring budget that even the media had a hard time getting excited about (one had to do a bit of page turning in last Thursday's Toronto Sun before they saw any budget coverage), we have to call it responsible.

One doesn't get the impression from this budget that the government seeks to use the tax dollars we forked up to buy our votes with them. And while the concept of a responsible budget is certainly nothing new, it is still always refreshing to see.

And while we don't get the idea that there's an attempt to buy our votes, the budget did contain some goodies for the economic well-being of the country, although nothing overly extravagant.

For example, \$1 billion being set aside to support a struggling manufacturing sector with three extra years of accelerated capital cost allowances is probably not going to make a whole lot of difference in the great scheme of things. But it is certainly a step in a positive direction, and as the saying goes, "every little bit helps."

There were a number of other rather small proposed expenditures (when we're referring to the federal budget of a country like Canada, a couple of hundred million dollars is a small amount), scattered among a host of projects that won't be remembered by many people a month from now.

One item that has been drawing a lot of attention is the plan that will allow Canadians, starting next year, to contribute up to \$5,000 annually in tax-free savings accounts. Any income realized from such an account would be tax free, and unlike RRSPs, people will be able to withdraw money from these accounts as needed without penalty, and put it back again later.

Again, we suspect this is a little item that probably sounds a lot better than it will actually turn out to be (details are still lacking on how it's all going to work). For one thing, how many of us can scrape together \$5,000 per year to take full advantage of this program? Apart from the very wealthy, not many. And the tax-free dollars realized from such investments are not going to amount to a whole lot either. One Liberal MP from this area estimated it might come to \$50 per year, tops.

On the other hand, that \$50 is certainly better than nothing, and few of us would be inclined to refuse it. As well, there's nothing wrong with encouraging people to set a little bit of money aside for a proverbial rainy day.

Again, it's a little step, but a positive little step.

Setting a federal budget for a country like Canada can be a daunting task, and also intimidating. Massive broad-based interests must be considered, while applying a certain amount of micromanagement to the government operation.

It's so very easy to criticize what Flaherty and Harper have done with this budget. How many of you reading this find it easy to set out a household budget? The vast majority of you probably find it a major chore, and a lot of you are foolish enough not to even bother with the exercise. Multiply that chore several million times, and you might obtain an idea of the scope involved.

We should also remember that some tough economic times might be ahead for us in the coming months. What we see in this budget is an attempt to brace against blows, which may or may not come.

Like we've stated throughout, if nothing else, this budget is responsible.



## I'm sick of this winter, are you?

We'll start this week with a question that I'm sure is driving most of you right out of your minds.

Are you tired of this winter yet?

Tell me this isn't a sure sign of someone who couldn't think of anything else to write about this week.

But in answer to my own question, yes, I am very tired of this winter. In fact, I'm fed up to the teeth with it. It's driving me up a proverbial wall. I think it sucks.

I am Canadian. I've lived my entire life in this country, and apart from one week spent in Cuba more than 30 years ago, I have spent every day of every winter of my life within 200 miles of where I am right now. In other words, I should be used to this. But I'm still sick of this winter.

I didn't realize just how fed up I was until last Tuesday night. I was driving to an assignment along rather slick roads when I suddenly realized how little traction I really had. My car skidded several times. I came close to rear-ending a few people. On two separate occasions, I was convinced I was heading straight for a ditch. After more than a week, I still can't figure out how I managed to stay on the road.

Then something happened that I would have thought unthinkable. I turned the car around the first chance I got and headed back from whence I came.

"Forget the assignment," I thought to myself. "It's not worth getting killed for."

I have been doing this work for 24 years, and have



Bill Rea

driven through extremes of just about every weather condition you could name, including snow, fog, rain and hail. I've had cases where I couldn't see the hood ornament on my car, but I had never been in a situation in which I just decided to turn the car around and pack it in.

Imaging being frightened by weather at my advanced age!

No I just headed back to my office and worked from there (I wasn't frightened enough to take the night off).

The only other time I turned back because of weather was one night a couple of years ago when I was trying to get to Penetang to cover a junior C hockey game, but that case of chickening out was largely prompted by my wife, who was travelling with me. I had assured her that we should be able to get there without too much trouble, but I also promised her that if the roads got really bad, we would turn back. As it turned out, conditions were just fine, at least until we got to Barrie, then we ran smack into winter. It was at that point that I learned a hard

lesson about my wife. Having made her a promise, I learned, to my astonishment, that she actually expected me to keep it.

Remind me not to go into politics.

So yes, driving conditions are the main reason why I'm sick of winter, but there are others.

And, as long as I'm in a bellyaching mood, I might as well add that I really don't enjoy getting into an ice-cold car every morning.

I also don't like having to start a day (be it a work day or otherwise) by shoveling out my driveway. But I have had to do that to many times this year. It's a terrific way to get a day off to a rotten start. And then to add insult to injury, most of those days have seen me having to shovel as soon as I get home in the evening.

So how much of this torture is one man expected to put up with?

The worst part is trying to sleep nights when they are calling for a lot of snow. I'm usually awake every couple of hours such nights, looking out the window to see if an especially early start is in order. Early starts like that have been required much too often this year.

About the only time when it was even remotely enjoyable was one Friday a couple of weeks ago, when my neighbour arrived home and started shoveling just as I was putting my shovel away after a job that was reasonably well done. I couldn't resist a bit of good natured gloating at his expense, as I headed inside.

See 'We' on page 7