

**SIMCOE-YORK
PRINTING &
PUBLISHING
LIMITED**

Publisher of the

Innisfil Scope
The Times
King Township Sentinel
P.O. Box 310
Beeton, Ontario
L0G 1A0
1-888-559-2287
Fax: 905-729-2541
thescope@rogers.com
www.innisfilscope.com

Publishers:

BRUCE HAIRE
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Editorial

Managing Editor
BILL REA

News Editor
CHRIS SIMON

Reporters
Richard Blanchard
Wendy Soloduik

Advertising
Director of Sales
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Sales Reps
Diann Gaston
Annette Derraugh
Nancy Stenhouse
Beth Wilson

Composing

Manager
KRISTEN HAIRE
Ad Designers
Penny Gilbertson
Joanne Radyk-Carrick
Lisa Rosati
Brian Valdock

Business

Jaquie Archibald
Janice Coté
Sylvia DeShane

Subscription rates:

Within 65 km except towns with letter carriers - \$28.00 + G.S.T.
Beyond 65 km and towns with letter carriers - \$41.00 + G.S.T.
Single copies 71¢ + G.S.T. or 75¢ (includes G.S.T.)
Published every Wednesday
Copyright The Scope 2008

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 that 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 insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) toward our mailing costs.

Canada



PM40036642 R09319
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
SIMCOE-YORK PRINTING &
PUBLISHING LIMITED
34 MAIN ST W
BEETON ON L0G1A0

Feds pass over South Simcoe in budget

Last week's federal budget fails to address some of the pressing issues facing the Innisfil area.

The Conservative government has called the proposed budget modest and responsible. They've suggested that the slugging economy in the United States could slow growth in Canada, and have reacted accordingly through the budget process. There are few major social spending projects proposed in the budget, especially in Ontario.

They haven't ruffled many feathers with the proposed outline for billions of dollars of taxpayer money, as is shown by Liberal plans for support. And it's hard to argue some of their areas of spending, like the \$1.6 billion in benefits allocated for the automotive industry. Ontario would also receive \$358 million to help vulnerable communities prepare for global economic uncertainty, \$515 million for infrastructure initiatives and \$303 million through the Clean Air and Climate Change, HPV Immunization and Patient Wait Times Guarantee trusts. Other items specifically allocated for Ontario include \$156 million to hire front line police officers, \$110 million to support mental health projects, \$660 million to help Aboriginal communities, and \$13.9 billion to address the fiscal imbalance. But as with most federal and provincial budgets, few items are allocated for



Comment

by Chris Simon

specific projects at this point.

While the budget does have some potentially positive impacts on this region, it misses out on some good opportunities for much needed funding.

According to the budget, the federal government plans to create a tax free, general purpose savings account, which will be available through all the major banks. Its intention is to help people save their money, in case of an economic slowdown, and reduce their dependence on credit.

But perhaps the government should have been working with banks to reduce fees and account costs, or introducing a higher interest savings account, as a real means of helping people save money. The current Conservative plan would take tax revenue out of federal hands, meaning less money would be spent on important social programs.

There are plenty of areas in need across Canada, ranging from a lack of affordable housing to health care, that could use the tax

revenue generated through banks.

Other than the bank account plan, there's little else to help Canadians stay out of debt. Several student groups are already expressing opposition to the budget, saying the Conservatives have failed to help reduce tuition and other post-secondary schooling expenses.

The Canadian Teachers Federation, the Assembly of First Nations and several health care advocacy groups have also suggested the budget fails to address long-term social issues.

Even within the province, other communities have received funding promises that could be just as well spent in this region. Specifically, the Peterborough area will receive funding for GO train service. However, the Barrie and South Simcoe area is amongst the fastest growing communities in Canada, and could use that money to improve local public transit, the Highway 400 corridor or GO service.

Local communities throughout the region could also use help repairing infrastructure, ensuring sustainable jobs, and handling the anticipated growth in this region over the next few decades.

In uncertain economic times, there's obviously a need to be cautious. But investing in social programming and other essential daily services could improve lives and help reduce the burden of a forecasted economic slowdown.

Resident pockets are being picked

Letters From Our Readers

Does Innisfil council think we have an unlimited amount of money to pay our taxes with?

After speaking to officers from South Simcoe Police, many say the new Taj Mahal

in Bradford is large enough and has ample space for holding prisoners from both North and South divisions. Why pay to build another set of jail cells in the North Division, which would require at least one officer to guard prisoners, when the new building in Bradford has ample space and people already on duty to monitor

prisoners?

And why would the old town hall be converted to an administration office for one inspector and one or two civilian staff when the old building is still going to be used to provide space for almost half of all the officers on the police service who currently work out of the North Division, which was

never built to accommodate this many officers?

Wouldn't it make more sense to put the administration office in the current North Division and make the town hall into a proper police station for all the officers to report in and out of?

At least then they would each have a desk to use,

along with sufficient space for a staff sergeant and sergeant's office, and a lunch room along with interrogation rooms and proper washrooms with showers for officers. Let's put our uniformed officers first, before creating a new castle for management.

George Kleinsteiber,
Innisfil

Town staff should be scolded for delays

Letters From Our Readers

Wake up Innisfil residents, we are being ripped off.

The council and its administration staff are negligent carrying out their duties regarding the new rec centre.

The project is seven months late. No one built into the contract with the builder a late performance penalty. This delay alone has cost us, the taxpayers unreasonable revenue losses, plus the inconvenience to the various groups is totally unjustifiable.

It's obvious the council, the consultants, planners and project managers did little or

no homework on this centre when we can except excuses like lack of steel, painters not available, shortage of heavy equipment and possibly lack of workers, etc. How foolish do these people think we are to accept excuses like they are providing.

This project is costing we, the taxpayers, an extra \$50,000 to pay the project managers for extra

activities. Innisfil should be penalizing these people for this amount. We paid them to ensure that the work would be done.

The council is speaking out like they are very efficient in keeping within the budget of \$30 million, which includes a \$1.5 million contingency. Don't believe them. The \$1.5 million contingency was

only to be spent on unaccountable extras, now it's part of the budget.

This whole complex is a horror show. Now add the garage (New Town Hall) for over \$10 million and we will be looking at another 10 per cent tax increase next year again, to pay for the Barclay follies.

Robert Saunders,
Innisfil

Thanks to a friendly new community

Letters From Our Readers

On Saturday, my fiancé, Barry Chapman, was involved in a single-car accident near the intersection of the 10th Line and the 10th Sideroad. His car slid off the road and hit a hydro pole.

Thankfully, he emerged from the vehicle relatively

uninjured; the airbag caused his nose to bleed, but aside from that he was only shaken. The car, however, was a complete mess and made the scene look much more spectacular than it really was (you've got to love crumple zones). I was only a few minutes away in my own vehicle and arrived at the site to wait for the police and tow-truck with Barry.

As fairly new residents to

Innisfil, and having moved from a busy and rough area in North York, we were both touched and surprised by the concern shown by the other motorists passing by. I want to thank all of those who stopped to ask if we were OK or required any assistance. These small acts of kindness say a lot about the community in which we reside.

Kara-Lynne BigCanoe,
Innisfil

