

Mixed reaction to McGuinty's promise of no tax hikes

By Bill Rea

As in the 2003 election, Dalton McGuinty is promising there will be no tax increases if his Liberals form the next government.

Unlike 2003, he's vowing to keep that promise this time.

The pledge was made last week as McGuinty addressed the party faithful, and local Liberals are confident he's going to be able to keep the promise.

The first budget that Finance Minister (and Vaughan — King — Aurora MPP) Greg Sorbara brought down in the spring of 2004

contained a health-care premium. The government explained at the time it was necessary because the former Progressive Conservative government of Ernie Eves had run up a substantial deficit that no one had apparently known about.

"We didn't know the extent to which the province was running into financial deficit," Sorbara commented at the time.

But Sorbara said last week that things are going to be different this time because the Griets have a more accurate picture of

what the books look like.

"I think the difference is this time around we have a very good sense of the financial state of the province," he remarked, adding they have restored Ontario to financial health.

"I think that that will finally be resolved," commented John Gilbank, who will be running for the Liberals in York — Simcoe.

He pointed out the 2003 promise was based on reports from the governments of Eves and Mike Harris that the budget would be balanced. "When (McGuinty) got into office,

he found in fact that he had been misled," Gilbank observed.

He added McGuinty faced the dilemma of either cutting back on health services or going back on his promise about taxes. "I think he made the right decision," he commented.

Gilbank agreed McGuinty made a mistake when he made such a promise without knowing the real situation.

"That was four years ago," Gilbank said, adding if that's the worst thing the government has done, the Liberals should have a very good campaign in the fall.

Dr. Helena Jacek, Liberal candidate in Oak Ridges — Markham, agreed being in government gives McGuinty a better view from which to assess the books.

"He's now the premier," she remarked. "He knows exactly what the state of the finances are at this time."

Jacek also suggested the media has overstated the issue, commenting the reception she's been getting at doors indicate people care a lot more about how their mother's hip surgery went.

But people running in the other parties aren't as quick

to trust the premier.

"I don't believe any of his promises," declared Nancy Morrison, who's running for the New Democrats in York — Simcoe. "I can't believe any of his promises, so I say take it all with a grain of salt."

Morrison has an autistic child, and she charged the Liberals made promises to help such children, and have not delivered.

"So many other promises that he made in the last election," she added "He has disappointed Ontarians time and time and time again."

Phil Bannon, PC candidate in Oak Ridges — Markham, wasn't impressed either.

"It's a matter the residents of Ontario have to look at," he remarked. "(McGuinty) doesn't have the credibility that is much needed there."

"I don't make promises," he added. "I make commitments to my

community."

"That's what the residents of the province want to hear," he said.

York North MPP Julia Munro, who's going to be running for the PCs in York — Simcoe, recalled the TV ads in the last election, with McGuinty promising not to raise taxes, along with his signing a taxpayer protection promise for the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation. "It does sound a bit hollow," she remarked.

Munro also pointed out there were other Liberal promises that have not been kept, and she didn't think that has impressed many voters.

"I just don't think that he has credibility in that regard," she remarked.

She also said promises like that, which are not kept, tend to increase cynicism, "not a healthy thing for any kind of democratic society, to have that sense of trust betrayed."



WRITER SIGNS OFF

King Township Public Library's Writer in Residence program has come to an end. It was concluded last Wednesday with writer Sharon Jennings reading one last story to children at the King City library. "This program has absolutely been terrific," declared Library CEO Murray McCabe. "You've been absolutely the perfect host for the program."

Letter to the Editor

Cold Creek Day was a big success

We had another successful event Saturday with about 300 people visiting Cold Creek to enjoy the natural surroundings and exhibits of retriever trials, birds of prey and the York Region Police Canine Unit.

The Township's Parks Recreation and Culture staff did a wonderful job trimming grass and placing picnic tables to set the stage for the day. We were pleased so many other environmental and arts groups joined us with displays to promote their programs. The hours of effort by our many supporters, friends and sponsors (see our Web site) were greatly appreciated as everyone contributed to the success of the day.

It was a pleasure to have Vijay Lekhi of the Ontario Trillium Foundation make the official grant

presentation to the Township of King, Toronto and Region Conservation and the Cold Creek Stewardship collaborative.

We welcome everyone to enjoy Cold Creek

throughout the year and forward suggestions of how we can further improve the site to www.ColdCreek.org

Gordon Craig,
President
Cold Creek Stewardship

June 13th Charlotte's Web
June 27th Princess Bride

Durham/York Residual Waste Environmental Assessment Study Public Information Sessions

PUBLIC NOTICE

- Health Risk Assessment Feasibility Study -

The Regions of Durham and York are participating in a joint waste study to find a better way to manage the residual waste (i.e. garbage) remaining after diversion efforts, such as recycling and composting. Through the Joint Waste Management Group, the two municipalities are addressing the social, environmental and financial impacts of this waste issue by way of an "Individual" Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Provincial EA Act. The preferred technology for managing Durham and York Regions residual waste has been identified as thermal treatment coupled with energy generation. A short-list of sites has been identified and evaluations are underway to select the preferred site using criteria and priorities developed during earlier stages of the EA. One of the short-listed sites is located on Garfield Wright Boulevard in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

Through the EA public consultation process, concerns were raised about the potential for emissions from an Energy-from-Waste (EFW) facility and their impact to human and ecological health. As part of the EA process, the Regions directed that a preliminary Health Risk Assessment Feasibility Study be conducted to examine the potential health and ecological impacts from an EFW facility sited in either Durham or York Region. The preliminary study is now nearing completion.

On June 19th and 21st, 2007, York Region will be hosting information sessions to present and discuss the progress of the EA to date and the findings of the preliminary health and ecological risk study. Additional information sessions are also planned in Durham Region.

For more information on the Durham/York Residual Waste EA Study, please visit the Study website at www.durhamyorkwaste.ca.

The following two Information Sessions will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19, 2007 and Thursday, June 21, 2007
Roman Palace Banquet Hall
1096 Ringwell Road, Newmarket, Ontario

Please note that the format and information discussed will be the same for each session. Please register in advance of these sessions by calling 1-866-398-4423.

For more information on the Durham/York Residual Waste EA Study, please visit www.durhamyorkwaste.ca or call 1-866-398-4423.

