

Morrison liked some of what she saw in budget

By Bill Rea

Mayor Marolyn Morrison saw some items she liked in the Provincial budget brought down last Thursday by Finance Minister Charles Sousa, but she said she has concerns too.

"I think there are some good things, but there are a few things that aren't good for municipalities," she said.

"It continues to honour the uploading agreement that was signed by all the municipalities by AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)," Morrison commented the following day.

There are provisions for infrastructure funding for municipalities, and Morrison said Peel Region is likely to get some of that money, although she acknowledged not much is going to go into Caledon's coffers.

She also commented that Sousa sees the need to prevent further pressures being imposed on the property tax payers.

Morrison was also pleased to see support for public transit. She noted that doesn't impact Caledon much now, it will some day.

"Maybe that means the 427 will get finished," she remarked.

As well, she observed there be a review of the assessment appeal timelines. If the Province is committed to local food and food security, then something needs to be done for the agricultural sector.

On the negative side, she pointed to the plan to take \$25 million away from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund in 2014. She said that's causing concern with AMO.

"That's horrible," she declared. "I don't think they thought this through when they did it."

In addition, Morrison said social assistance costs for the Region will increase in 2014.

"That's not a good thing," she said.