

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007 ♦ THESPEC.COM

WEATHER

High: 19
Low: 6 (morning)
Sunshine all day.
Tonight, cool and partly cloudy.
Full details: **Go 2**



Premier to target guns and gangs

BY DANIEL NOLAN

Premier Dalton McGuinty will make an announcement in Hamilton today regarding a provincewide infusion of cash to fight guns and gangs.

The announcement at the downtown police station follows a meeting police Chief Brian Mullan had with the premier and cabinet minister Marie

Bountrogianni May 3 to press the case for funding to combat gangs outside of Toronto.

"It's more than Hamilton," a government source said yesterday about the announcement. Queen's Park last year gave Toronto \$51 million to tackle its gang problem.

"The chief (Mullan) has had conversation with local MPPs about funding,"

said the source. "He has said he's concerned about staffing around guns and gangs."

Police chiefs in other municipalities have also lobbied the Liberals for cash. Attorney General Michael Bryant and Community Safety Minister Monte Kwinter will attend the announcement.

The announcement will be the

launch of a four-month campaign for the Oct. 10 election. Although scheduled to sit until June 28, the Liberals moved to have the legislature call it quits yesterday, killing 167 private members' bills. The government recently passed a bundle of its own bills.

Last night, the first Liberal in Hamilton was nominated for the election.

Liberal MPP Ted McMeekin was acclaimed the candidate for the new riding of Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale.

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With files from Dana Brown

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Private members' bills. **A10**



GARY YOKOYAMA, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Volunteer climber John Millar takes care to avoid the wrath of peregrine falcon Madame X as he removes chicks from her nest at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel for banding yesterday. Two of the four chicks hatched died, a third was taken to Guelph animal hospital for treatment of an infection and a fourth was placed back in the nest after an examination and banding. Check our video at thespec.com.

Fox 40 whistling all the way to space

Hamilton whistles will be on the next flight to outer space.

Four Fox 40 whistles will blast off Friday aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis from Cape Canaveral to the International Space Station.

Ron Foxcroft, founder and CEO of the Hamilton-based company, got a call on behalf of flight engineer Clay Anderson last November, asking for a shipment of space souvenirs. Anderson wanted them because he's a basketball referee in Texas.

Foxcroft, a former NCAA basketball referee, developed the pea-less whistle now used in the NBA and the NHL.

"We got word on Friday that (NASA) has allowed them to take four," said Foxcroft, who hopes to go to Florida to see the launch.

Anderson apparently wants to know if anybody will hear it if he blows a whistle in space. The astronaut will present Foxcroft with one of the whistles after he comes back to Earth in October.

The Hamilton Spectator

Harbour report card

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Subject/goal	2007 grade	2002 grade:	Comments
Healthy harbour water quality	C+	C	Water clarity is improving, as are city wastewater treatment systems. But more government money needed to ensure continued progress.
Beaches open at west end	D	C	Disappointing number of beach closures mainly due to bacterial contamination from birds. Public should not feed birds and other wildlife.
Clean up contaminated sediments	D	D	Randle Reef cleanup moving slowly. Need financial commitment to deal with contaminants.
Restore fish & wildlife habitat & populations	B+	B+	More diversity of native fish species observed in the harbour, some migration barriers removed, habitat restoration continues.
Public access to harbour shoreline	A	B+	Have seen more access thanks to extension of waterfront trails, fishing platform, harbour tours, and more public amenities.

Coppley Apparel stretches workforce by 200

BY STEVE ARNOLD

Hamilton's Coppley Apparel Group is doing something rare in the Canadian clothing industry — adding jobs.

The company plans to expand its employment by almost 200 jobs — about 30 per cent — starting with 50 additional jobs this year.

Coppley's growth burst will bring its workforce to about 750 people, the majority of them in Hamilton. The new jobs follow exploding sales growth as

the company uses computer-aided custom tailoring of suits that give struggling retailers a much-needed cash-flow boost.

"What we do is very labour intensive so we're going to need 30 per cent more equipment and 30 per cent more people," company president Warwick Jones said yesterday after a "town hall" meeting with employees.

"We have the space we need in our plants, now we're working federally

and provincially to find the skills we need," he said.

Jones said the company has a high proportion of recent immigrants and women among its workers.

Coppley pioneered a method of using a computer, a grid and a digital camera to do the work of a master tailor, producing made-to-measure suits in a fraction of the time.

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▶ **RELATED STORY:** Coppley bucks the trend in Canada's clothing sector. **A14**



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