

**Committee member**

# Georgetown's MP settles into his new post

By PAUL BARKER  
Herald special

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid carved a bit of history for himself last Tuesday when he sat in Canada's Parliament for the first time. Since his May 22 election victory over Liberal incumbent

Hoss Milne, the new MP has thrown all his energy into federal politics.

And he loves it.

In a two-hour interview the 39-year-old Brampton resident talked about his expectations in Ottawa, the new minority government under Prime

Minister Joe Clark and what it's like being a federal MP. His new optimism reflects a trend that has developed since Joe Clark's party took over power.

"There's an excellent feeling in the party," says Mr. McDermid. "The spirits are high and the prime minister is fantastic. He is available to

any members of the caucus within 48 hours."

Unlike most new governments, he says, the Tories skipped the "honeymoon" period.

**HONEYMOON**

"We haven't had the honeymoon enjoyed by most governments. The party hasn't had

the opportunity to be lulled into a false sense of security. In a way that's positive because it's kept us all on our toes."

The hot issue in the upcoming parliament will be Petro-Can, he says.

Prime Minister Clark has stuck to his campaign promise to sell part of the crown corporation, a move that could bring the ruling Tories crashing down if the three opposition parties - Liberals, NDP and Social Credit - vote against it.

"Petro-Can is not doing what it originally set out to do and that is to get a handle on the Canadian oil industry. I believe the private sector can run it more efficiently," Mr. McDermid explains.

He's behind his party's stance but stresses the companies that make up Petro-Can should be sold to Canadian and not foreign firms.

On the question of energy, Mr. McDermid says the prime minister has to reach a compromise somewhere down the line in order to satisfy both the western provinces - rich in reserves - and eastern Canada. "The guys out west are looking down the road to when their resources run out," he says.

In recent months Ontario Premier William Davis has argued strongly against Alberta's proposal to put Canadian oil prices on par with the world market. Such a move would hike the price per barrel from \$13.75 to upwards of \$25.

**GOALSSET**

As a backbencher, Mr. McDermid has already set goals for himself.

"I want to be the best backbencher this thing's ever had and would like to be known as an available and approachable member. The second goal is to really get involved in the life of Parliament and the committees I serve. People in this riding elected me to go to Ottawa to represent them."

He describes parliamentary life as an "artificial world".

"The House of Commons is a very unique area. You work, eat and socialize with the same and live in a city you don't really feel part of."

"My time is no longer my own really. The long days, the travel, the loss of privacy are public duties. And to be an effective member you had better realize that."

Mr. McDermid, married with no children, plans to spend five days in Ottawa and fly home to Brampton on weekends.

Sometime this week he'll be appointed to one of the standing committees on Parliament Hill, an additional workload but something he accepts.

Today's Speech from the Throne - an outline of the government's expectations - will be an interesting one, he says.

When he sits in the hallowed halls of Parliament, two men Mr. McDermid admired won't be there to watch him officially become a Member of Parliament - his father and John Diefenbaker.

"It was one of my disappointments not being able to sit in the house with Diefenbaker," Mr. McDermid says of

the former prime minister who died earlier this year after being re-elected to Parliament.

His father died nine years ago unaware of what was in store.

"I'm sure," the Brampton-Georgetown MP says, "he would have been extremely proud."



(Herald photo)

Georgetown MP John McDermid pours over parliamentary procedure as he readied to take his place in Canada's new

edition of the federal parliament last week. Mr. McDermid said he supports government plans to dissolve Petro-Can.

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## Red Cross loses appeal

A belated appeal by the Georgetown and district branch of the Red Cross failed Monday night to sway the town's decision increasing rental rates for the branch's office space in the Cedarvale community centre.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy assured branch spokesman Tina Yaremy that town council would find some way to recover the Red Cross deficit for 1979, estimated at about \$72 even if a hat had to be passed among its members.

The town's general committee voted, however, to refer Mrs. Yaremy's objection to the six per cent annual rent increase to its special budget committee for consideration next spring.

Mrs. Yaremy responded to news of the proposed rent hike in similar fashion to spokesmen for other affected groups, but said she was unaware she could attend a municipal meeting in the same manner as a representative of the Maple Co-operative Nursery School did two weeks ago.

**COUNCIL LETTER**  
Repeating the warning she gave in a letter to council, Mrs. Yaremy said additional expenses for the branch could force the reduction or cancellation of some existing services. The branch fell \$5,000 short of its 1979 fund-raising goal, she said.

Coun. Russ Miller acknowledged that the Red Cross performed "a great service" in Halton Hills, but said the town is similarly hard-pressed to make ends meet in the area of rental facilities.

Council "can't make exceptions", Mayor Pomeroy agreed, adding that he is investigating the situation in Burlington, where the local Red Cross branch receives a municipal grant.

"I don't even think I was canvassed," he said of the annual fund-raising campaign. "But I'm pretty sure we could drum up \$72 for you in a hurry without going to the grant system, whether it's by canvassing councillors or whatever."

Asked by Coun. Harry Levy why the fund-raising campaign failed to meet expectations this year, Mrs. Yaremy explained that a major factor is that few donors involved in payroll deduction plans at their places of work realize they can specify that their donations must go directly to the Georgetown branch.

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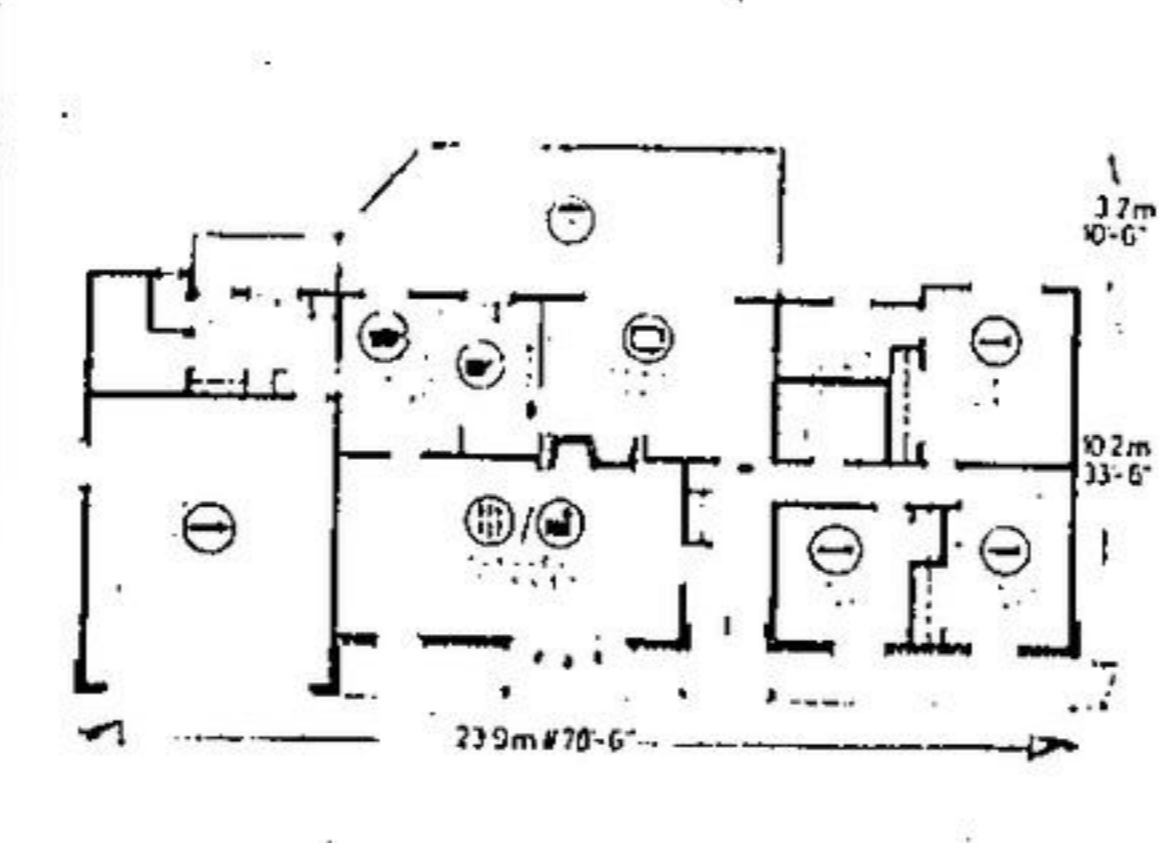
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The loggia-sheltered entry leads into a reception foyer and closet storage area, from whence either left to the large living-dining room combination, or straight ahead to the sunken family room. The living room features a charming bow window and a double-sided, cantilevered-hearth masonry fireplace. The dining room divides from the dinette via convenient pocket door.

A well-planned U-shape kitchen-dinette combination has an excellent work triangle configuration, ample countertop work surfaces and generous cupboard storage. The dinette area provides pocket door access to the laundry-utility area, one-piece vanity bath and generous indoor storage area. This latter area could be developed as an amud room if access from the garage were provided at the construction stage.

The large family room-lounge area is sunken two risers from the kitchen and entrance hall. If contains the second side of the cantilevered fireplace, and sliding glass doors to the large rear patio.

All three bedrooms are positioned around the central bath and linen storage area, well away from the main entertaining area for freedom from disturbance. Each has generous closet storage and excellent exposure for natural light. The large master has a three-piece ensuite with tub.

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