

Meet the President



BRIAN SHARPE

Railroad Club

If you haven't grown out of the stage of childhood where you loved to play with trains, the Georgetown Model Railroad Club is just the place for you.

The Railroad Club has 12 members from all over the region and was founded in 1971 by James Colter, Roger Heed, and Doug Wodhams. Brian Sharpe is the current president and has been since 1981.

The Railroad Club plans to host the Central Ontario Division of the National Model Railroaders Association in the fall of '83. Also planned is the showing of a modular layout at the Georgetown Library in the fall of '83.

You must be 16 years of age to become a member. The exchange of modelling ideas and friendship is the purpose of the Railroad Club. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Railroad Club, contact Mr. Sharpe at 878-6180.

Book contains 'frightening' facts

By JOHN McDERMID, M.P.

The Government tabled its Main Estimates - its spending program for 1982-83 and what a grocery list it is.

Total spending will exceed \$85 Billion and that is an increase of 17.4 per cent over the Main Estimates last year.

The "Blue Book" - a two and a half inch thick document contains a frightening compilation of facts and figures setting out the astronomical increases for this fiscal year. I find it very difficult to reconcile the fact that the government expects us to live within "six and five" and yet it plans for a whopping 17.4 per cent (\$12.7 Billion) increase.

Twelve Billion dollars represented the total federal budget in the first year Trudeau took office - today, it represents a portion of the increase in spending alone. Mr. Trudeau's office spending jumps from \$31.2 million to \$37 million.

The Estimates tell us that servicing our deficit - the interest alone - is going to ring in at \$18.6 Billion this year - an increase of almost \$2 Billion over last year. This means that the first quarter of every dollar collected in taxes or borrowed will have to go to pay the interest on the accumulated debt of \$130 billion plus.

When the Crown Corporation debt of \$35 Billion and the \$49 billion in

pension funds are added to our debt, the government must account for a total debt of approximately \$240 Billion.

The spending estimates of the Department of Employment and Immigration will be almost doubled - from \$2.4 Bill-



JOHN McDERMID

ion to \$4.6 billion. The Department of Energy's spending estimates will also be more than doubled - from \$1.0 billion to \$2.5 billion.

The CBC will receive \$820 million - an increase of \$83 million. The Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department is budgeting for \$10.3 million for the Metric Commission. Despite the advice and warnings from scientists and the business sector, our Science and Technology sector will

receive a meagre increase of \$55 million for a total of \$645.6 million.

This sector - research and development - which represents our hope for growth and survival in productivity has been given very little attention by this government. We have a very dismal record of supporting R and D in this country and we are paying the price for the lack of importance attached to this area.

We lack a sound manufacturing base and we export too many raw and semi-finished or semi-processed materials. We sell coal, iron ore and aluminum to the Japanese by the ton and we end up buying these resources back by the pound in the form of cars and high tech electronics.

The President of the Treasury Board has broken down the spending into 14 areas and each area exceeds the "six and five" guidelines. By imposing the "six and five" on public servants' wages and old age pensions and family allowances, the government will save \$700 million. But that \$700 million is not being saved - it is simply being reallocated. If this trend in government continues, our economy will not improve. We need a

stronger economic base and business and industry need the confidence to modernize, grow and expand.

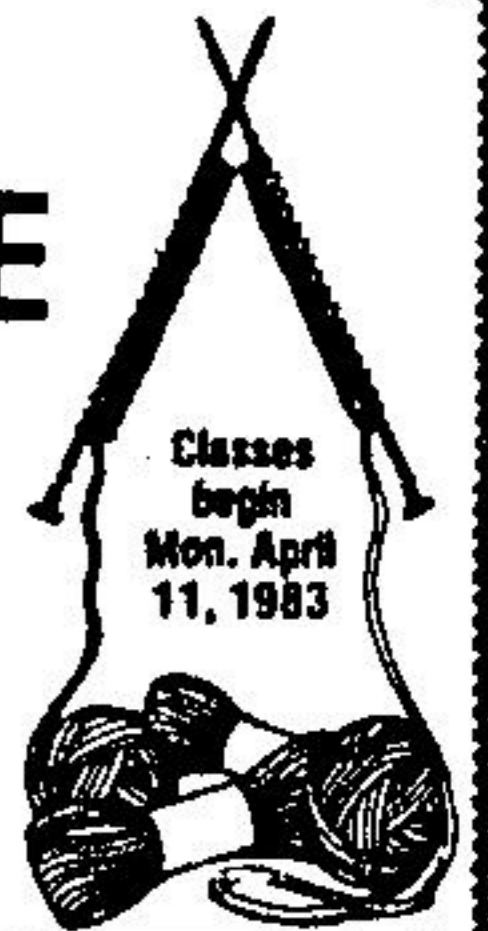
All in all the Main Estimates present a sorry picture of a government out of financial control and defunct of any ideas.

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Don't blame the world's current economic crisis on foreign competition, the end of the work ethic or any of a dozen other causes: the global economic crisis is a sign of the complete breakdown of the industrial system, according to the analyst of future change, Alvin Toffler.

Toffler, the author of Future Shock and, more recently, The Third Wave, spoke last week before a sell-out crowd at "The New Neighbourhood," forum on community development, housing and energy at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

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Sat. April 9th
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Speaker:

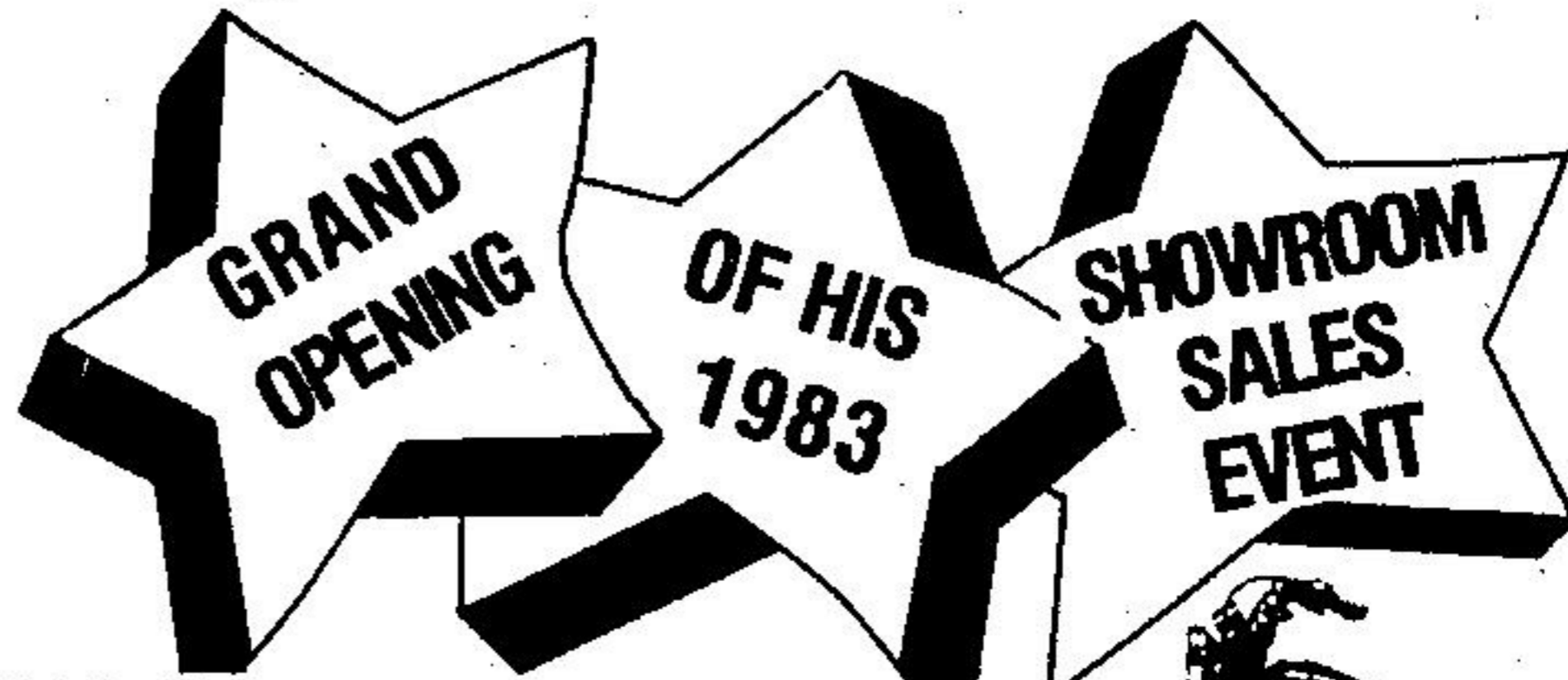
GORD NORMAN

Sun. April 10th
(8:30 p.m.)

Rev. David
Freeman

TOPIC:
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Hurry Down to Hazen's Kawasaki



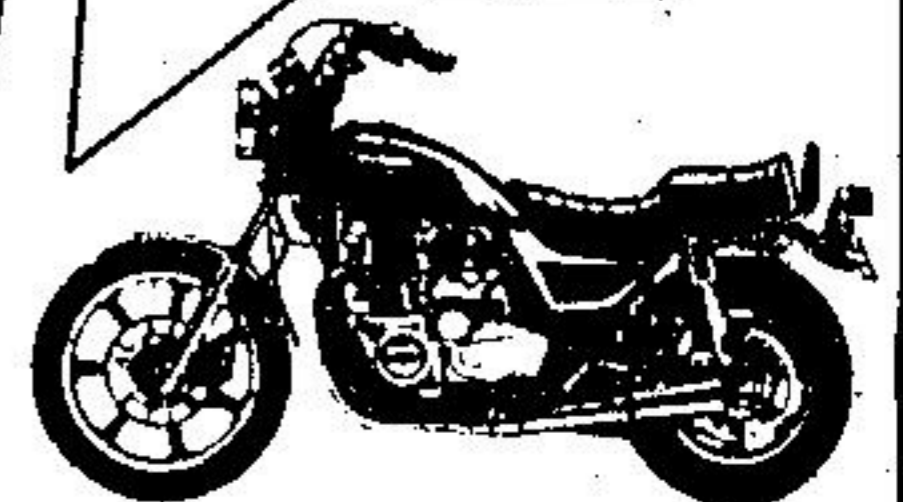
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