

Taking a good look across the riding

When I left Ottawa one afternoon last week, there was a foot of snow on the ground, and waist-high piles stood where people had shovelled their driveways out.

The air was thick with flurries, the temperature was plunging, and Highway 16 out of the city was a danger zone. But when I reached home, the fields were bare, the roads were clear and it felt almost warm. The contrast was stunning.

Ottawa is the second-coldest capital city in the world (after the capital of Mongolia). When US president George Bush was there a few days ago he shivered in his trench coat, and told reporters the place was "colder than hell." He was right.

Well, after thawing out, I've had another busy time. The Caledon Ratepayers Association asked me to give a talk to the annual meeting, and I was pleased to see a hundred or so turn out. This group of citizens ruffles a few feathers



On The Hill
With
Garth Turner

with its stand on rural development, but it's exactly the kind of watchdog that every area should have.

A similar group is POWER, the environmental activists from the Acton and Georgetown area. It was a real pleasure to be at the workshop they sponsored in Georgetown last Saturday, and to bring special greetings from Lucien Bouchard, the new federal environment minister.

I am really starting to get encouraged by what's happening on the environmental front. Effective

lobbying has pushed back a decision by the World Bank on a loan to Brazil which would see a great part of the rain forests wiped out. I wrote Mike Wilson, the finance minister, asking him to vote against that loan - and I know some other MPs have done the same. Hopefully, the issue will just die.

The Brazilian loan is a good example of the tension between protecting the planet's resources, and economic pressures. It's one thing to be crusaders from a distance, but I also think we have to look just as critically at what our own society is doing.

So it's good to see Ontario taking a strong stand against those products which break down into CFCs - chlorofluorocarbons. These are directly responsible for depleting the planet's ozone layer, which leads to the warming of the earth. That "greenhouse effect" will seriously harm our crops, flood our coastlines and boost the chances of us all getting skin cancer.

So, Ontario will be banning styrofoam cups and containers and, eventually, coolants which are harmful to the environment. This week I am writing Bouchard to ask that the same be done on a

national level.

I don't think we can do enough in this area: Canadian scientists last week discovered there's a hole in the ozone layer in the Arctic, and that should worry all of us. Now there are two we know about - over both poles - and they're expanding as we pump more harmful chlorine compounds into the atmosphere. It's got to stop soon - a message which I'm told the prime minister is taking to an international environmental conference in Holland next month. Just to make sure, I'm sending him a letter, too.

Locally, my advisory committee on the environment is being put together, and I've been really impressed at the number of people who came forward to volunteer. There are a few spaces left, however, and if you'd like to be involved, then give my office a call.

Our toll-free phone line is (finally) installed: 1-800-668-4322.

This Thursday (Feb. 23) is a special day for me. I'm excited to host a Free Trade seminar, at the North Halton golf club in Georgetown, featuring a clutch of experts from both sides of the border.

The seminar kicks off at 8:30

a.m., and runs through lunch. Everybody with an interest in how Free Trade will affect us here in Halton-Peel is welcome to attend. We'll have four hours of useful talk, plus a bunch of background materials, including an updated version of my Citizen's Guide to Free Trade.

It strikes me that the more businesspeople here know about the trade deal, the better they can exploit it. The bottom line will hopefully be more business, and more jobs.

Making a debut at the seminar will be my Free Trade Advisory Council, chaired by Frank Anthony, of Limehouse, and including citizens from across the riding. I'm really looking forward to working with them, as they tour from Burlington to Palgrave, talking to people about free trade and our own communities. Together, we'll make sure we squeeze all the good we can out of the deal.

By the way, the seminar in Georgetown will be very much in the spirit of Free Trade: It's free!

Legion Lines
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Winners in the Royal Canadian Legion Georgetown Branch 120 car club draw for Feb. 16 were: 296 Neil Patullo; 430 Rick Appleyard; 150 Bill Hiltz and Cyril Engelby; 125 Cecil Greenslade; 212 Betty Brown; and 354 Carol Copland.

The deadline for confirming your invitation to the Invitational Curling Bonspiel is rapidly approaching. Entry fee should be paid to Gord King prior to Feb. 25.

Today (Wednesday) an exhibition entitled Total War - Peel in

WW II, will open at a special 8 p.m. reception at the Region of Peel Museum, 9 Wellington St. East, Brampton.

In Friday night euchre, High Lady was Marg Tutty, while Emily Sargent was second, and Lois Richardson had most lone hands. For the men, Rod King was high winner, with Oliver Scragg second, and Albert Porter recording the most lone hands.

In the Saturday afternoon meat draw, this week's lucky winners were Jack Picket, Eric Howell, Dianne Donnelly, Dorothy Vinkle, Frank Noeholson, Terry Bludd, Nellie Bell, Earl Haskins, Don Latchford, Meredith Dickson, G. Engels, and E. Pickett.

Entertainment in the club room for Feb. 25 will feature mini-bingo, with Bob and Corey. Harry and Gib will also be awarding a door prize.

Optimist winners announced

The Optimist Club of Georgetown has announced its winners in the Trip of the Month Club for the month of February.

The top prize for the month of a \$1,500 travel voucher, valid for any travel facilities available through TWG Travel Inc. of Georgetown, was won by Michelle Starret of Georgetown, who held Ticket No.

97. The consolation prize of \$120 was won by Pat Barber of Georgetown, who held Ticket No. 58.

All ticket supporters are thanked for their support of the draw, which provides the Optimists with funds to continue their many community projects.

The next draw is scheduled for March 14.

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