

Open lines of communication remain important

One of the things I learned early when entering politics long ago (last autumn) was that individuals have an incredible amount to offer the system.

Too many of us believe that "government" lingers along on its own, and that policies are the result of some mysterious process that real people neither participate in, nor influence.

Wrong. My days in Ottawa have convinced me otherwise. If you could have been with me last week in national caucus, with all the government members, the cabinet and the prime minister there, you'd have heard and seen individual MPs speaking out for things they believed in. Here policies are debated and crafted. Here a representative like me can stand and pass on the views of the folks back home.

So, it's important that you keep talking to me. We've had Town Hall meetings over the past few weeks, a seminar on free trade, meetings with local councils and



On The Hill
With
Garth Turner

dozens of community events. Before I head back to Ottawa again in a couple of weeks, much more is planned - and all of this is important and valuable to me.

I particularly appreciate those people who have taken the time to sit down and write me long, thoughtful letters on various issues.

For example, Donald Elliot of Cheltenham is a retired lawyer, academic and author, who shares with me his thoughts on Canada's deficit and economy.

The country, he says, needs some form of value added tax, because that's the only way enough

money can be raised to start paying off the massive debt Canada owes. He also says any special interest group wanting more money "would have to indicate what taxes should be increased, and to what extent, in order to produce the necessary funds."

Finance Minister Mike Wilson is proposing a value-added tax, and at a press conference in Georgetown last Friday I unveiled the final draft of a guide I've written explaining it all. This stage of tax reform is complex, and I think it's important we all understand what the feds propose, long before it takes effect.

If you'd like a copy (free, of course) of my Citizen's Guide to the Sales Tax, then please call the office, toll-free: 1-800-668-4322.

Angus Doughty, of Bolton, writes to tell me there's no way the government should be spending \$8 billion on a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to defend Canada.

"As was made abundantly clear

at the Bolton Town Hall meeting," he says, "the deficit and the national debt are the two biggest challenges we face going into the 1990s. The debt is reaching crisis proportions, and any considerable downturn in the economy, or rise in interest rates, would be ruinous. Here we have an opportunity to do something significant, and immediate, to combat this problem and it would be political suicide to miss the opportunity."

Mr. Doughty wants the subs sunk - especially because "our fiscal crisis comes at a time when every major power is decreasing its military spending."

Mike Pembry, of Terra Cotta, agrees in spades.

"The time has come for desperate measure to reduce our deficit and save the environment," he writes me in a long letter. "Eliminating our defence budget may seem too desperate, but it may be necessary."

Mr. Pembry also blasts government waste and inefficiency, along with agricultural grants to farmers who don't practise good soil management. It's hard to disagree with any criticism of the feds when it comes to the poor targeting of taxpayers' bucks.

Bruce Crozier, of Georgetown, is also bothered by the government's budget deficit - which will be close to \$30 billion this year, raising our national debt to almost \$350 billion.

"What are we waiting for," he asks, "to be another banana republic? I think the government has to cut spending, and now! The taxpayer is always called upon to make up the difference. Certain social programs have to be cut or restricted. For example, not every household with children needs the baby bonus.

"Government services are going to have to be cut and Crown corporations examined, and some sold.

"Last year I stood in a very hot hockey arena in Georgetown listening to candidates for the PC nomination. They spoke about deficit-cutting and making a better life for the people of Halton Hills. I hope that the promise will be a reality and not just the hot air I was breathing that night."

I hear you, Bruce. It's easy for politicians to promise things. It's something else to deliver. I promise to do all I can to persuade the government to get serious about restoring Canada's economic health. The future depends on it.

Please keep in touch. You can write me, postage-free: Garth Turner MP, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6.

An enchanted evening with Globe

By DIANE ATKINSON
Herald Special

"Some Enchanted Evening" is not only the famous song from South Pacific, but it is also the name of Georgetown Globe Productions' spring show, featuring the music of those two great men, Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The musical duo worked together as a team to bring the world some of Broadway's most beautiful songs.

Richard Rodgers, respected by many as the greatest composer of musical theatre, originally generated a string of successes with lyricist Lorenz Hart. Serious illness forced Hart to end the 20-year partnership, leaving Rodgers with no lyricist to finish his work on "Oklahoma." At Rodgers' request, Oscar Hammerstein, a talent in his own right, agreed to take on the job. And so began a collaboration that brought us some of the most famous and memorable songs of the musical stage.

The team received a Pulitzer prize for their first hit,

"Oklahoma" which ran for over six years. From that point, Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote one hit musical after another, collecting more prizes along the way - "State Fair," "Carousel," "South Pacific," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," and the list goes on.

Georgetown Globe Productions will treat you to an evening of this magic music at a supper theatre. Show dates are May 4, 5, 6, and 11, 12, 13. A cast and chorus of 18 are busy at rehearsals each week, preparing for Some Enchanted Evening. They are Lee and Candy Yeandle, Debbie Tilson, Jan Stewart, Larry Scott, Meg Rosie, Roderick MacIntosh, Doug MacDougall, Marlene and Gillian Johnston, Jim Hooper, Jan Hillier, Joan Herrier, Kathleen Hamilton, Lois Fraser, Joy Eastment, Phil Brennan and Jean Bennett.

The production team for Globe's spring show are George Smart (Producer), Nanci McNeil (Assistant Producer), Gerry Andrew (Artistic Director), Colin Eastment (Musical Director), Jack Ferguson (Stage Manager), Linda Brennan (Choreographer), and Marilyn Micklethwaite (Pianist).

Numerous other people are diligently working to ensure the success of Some Enchanted Evening - Pat Bell, Allen Maxwell, Hazel Gorin, John Barnes, Keith Mills, Marilyn Champ and numerous other cast and chorus members.

Don't miss Some Enchanted Evening. Tickets go on sale May 13 at Royal LePage Real Estate Services, 170 Guelph St., Georgetown. Tickets cost \$17.50 for dinner and show at the Ballinafad Community Centre. For ticket information call 877-4323.

BIA members appointed

Seven people have been appointed to sit on the Acton Business Improvement Area management board for the next three years.

Acton Councillor Gerald Renne will return to the board for another three years.

Also on the board of management is Beryl Bennett of Blue Springs Flower Shop, Gordon Chapman of Mackenzie-Chapman law firm, Hilde Colling of the Bread Basket, Dan Doliver of Dan Doliver Surveyors, Roberta Holmes of the Robin's Nest and Carla Snels of Focus and Frame.

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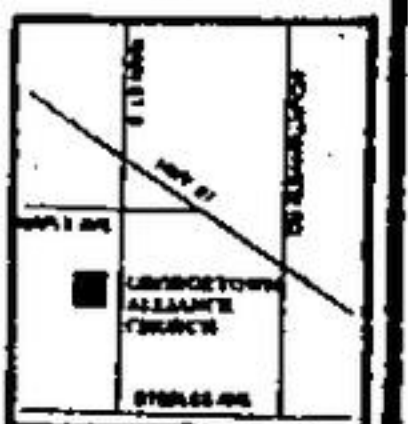
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