

Visit from the hill leaves us a little taxed

Thank you Garth Turner for coming down from Ottawa to fill us in on the new tax bill.

The illustrious little editor-cum-Tory held a press conference March 3 in his Main Street, Georgetown office to bring Ottawa to the people of Halton-Peel riding.

Mr. Turner has published a "Citizen's Guide to the Sales Tax" that just might be approved by Finance Minister Michael Wilson in the House of Commons within a month and just might mean gigantic taxes on sales purchases.

They say the only certain things in life are death and taxes. Since we only experience death once



Kell's Korner

Donna Kell
Herald Staff

(Shirley MacLaine might disagree) we can only discuss at length the imposition of taxes.

To be fair, the new tax, if approved could be 17 per cent on goods and services purchased in Ontario. Eight or nine per cent of that would

be federal tax, the remaining percentage would be the provincial sales tax we all know too well.

This kind of takes the fun out of shopping.

While only 40 per cent of industry is taxed on merchandise before it ever hits the shelves, the new tax would be more up front. We would be able to see it on our sales slips.

And the tax would affect 100 per cent of merchandised goods, sparing only medical drugs and food. This is bad news for the service industry and for book sales, I would suspect. And bad news for alcohol and cigarette fans. These taxes will remain as outrageous as they are right now.

If passed, this new tax system based on consumption rather than income could be in effect in 1991. That's only two short years from now, and Mr. Turner said this issue could have as much impact as free trade did in the 1988 federal election. It's little wonder.

Tax hits us where we live: in the pocketbook. And for anyone who has ever shopped out-of-province, our taxes look truly outlandish when compared with tamer provinces or states.

Shopping in Montreal this winter, I purchased a lovely hand-made wool sweater from Peru. Opening my wallet and mentally adding seven or eight per cent sales tax, I was pleased to learn that this item was tax-free. There is no tax on clothing in Quebec.

Several years ago on a trip to Illinois, I paid what seemed a paltry tax on cotton clothing (already a lower price than Canadian cottons) at five per cent.

But what is really outrageous is that personal items for women - you all know what I am talking about - are taxed. This is unfair and biased. If men used these items out of necessity, would a federal and provincial tax be imposed?

And if you go out to a restaurant, you'll know that there is an eight-per-cent sales tax on food over \$6

and a 10-per-cent sales tax on alcohol. That's tax-on-tax-on-tax. And that's disgusting.

A week in Florida in 1984 cost two friends and I maybe a total of \$30 to \$40 in bars. The same amount would only cover one or two nights of holiday celebration in the Great Taxed North.

And isn't it embarrassing that American shoppers can pick up a bottle of Canadian Club whisky for less than half of what Canadians pay?

So, with a bucketful of sugar, like the coating on the latest tax bill up for approval, we're supposed to make the medicine go down.

Garth, we're tickled pink that you came to Halton Hills to break the news to us early, but the whole issue leaves me feeling really taxed.

Parents have a PA Day

The first-ever Parent 'P.A. Day' program will be held Friday evening, April 21 at Acton District High School, featuring keynote speaker Fiona Nelson, former Toronto Board of Education Chairperson.

The idea was proposed originally by members of Brookville and Robert Little School communities. Lorie Jocius of Brookville recalled, "The idea was to provide an opportunity for parents and schools to meet together in an atmosphere that would foster positive and constructive partnerships - where parents and teachers could communicate and collaborate in areas of mutual interest."

Karen Erskine, Principal of Robert Little School, feels that the original objective will be achieved. "Fiona Nelson will focus her remarks on Partnerships for Success, the theme for Education Week. We had already selected Parents in Partnership (P.I.P.) as our program title well before the theme for Education Week was announced.

Linda McAnsh, a Limehouse School parent, said, "I am excited about the excellent workshops being planned for parents attending the evening's program. Dealing with Media and Peer Pressure, Developing a Responsible Child, and the Trials and Tribulations of a Modern Family are three of eight workshops which parents will find practical and informative," she said.

Sherratt School parent Ina Chamberlain, assured everyone that parents are extremely interested. "I am concerned that on-

ly 200 tickets are available to North Halton parents." Ticket holders will enjoy an informal dinner; be entertained by the Lord Elgin Players; hear Fiona Nelson; and attend two workshops - all for \$8.

For 200 parents, April 21 will be one P.I.P. of an evening! For further information and tickets contact the leader of your school's parent group.

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There are only a few days left to purchase your tickets for the St. Patrick's Dinner on March 18. Tickets can be purchased from any executive member and they will be on sale at the meeting this Thursday, March 16.

There will be Euchre in Erin March 18. Register at 10 a.m. for play at 11 a.m. Contact Anne Nicholson at 450-5226 if you want to play.

Congratulations to Nikki Siefried and her husband on the birth of their baby boy.

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