Citizen's tax guide is hot off the press

A few days ago I cam back from Ottawa to have a press conference in our little constituency office in Georgetown.

(It used to house a sewing shop, and people still come through the door with torn trousers.)

As I mentioned here before, I've been working on the proposal the feds have to reform taxes some more and create a new national sales tax. It is a sweeping and dramatic change in the way we think about taxes - shifting some of the burden from income, to consumption.

The good part is that with a consumption tax you can avoid it when you buy less - unlike income taxes which are impossible to avoid. The other part is that most goods and



On The Hill

services will be taxed, including many which are now tax-free.

The whole exercise, at first, will not be to raise taxes. The money the new tax collects will be offset by the elimination of other taxes we presently pay and a lowering of the tax rate for middle class people. After studying the thing, I think there's a lot to recommend the change. For me, that's saying a lot, because a year ago I was afraid the tax would be inflationary and hurt the economy.

Anyway, I have been at the typewriter again, this time to produce a 20-page Citizen's Guide to the Sales Tax. Finance Minister Michael Wilson has read it. So has deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski, and a bunch of other people in Ottawa. So far, the reviews are good.

On thing I promised during the election campaign was to put my first loyalty to the people of this riding. So the first media people in the country to get a copy of the Guide were those who came to our little office the other day.

Finished copies just arrived

from the printer last Friday, and I'd be happy to send one to anyone who requests it. Call me, toli-free, at 1-800-668-4322.

In have one favor, though. Inside your Guide you'll find a response sheet asking a few simple questions, some to be answered before reading the pamphlet, and some after. I'd really appreciate your input, as Michael Wilson has asked me to tell him how people in our communities feel about the proposed changes.

We have a chance right now to influence the political process, so let's go for it, okay?

Helping me out in the area of taxation are going to be five fine people who will sit on an Advisory Council on Taxation.

This is the second committee appointed so far in Halton-Peel to help me stay in touch with public feeling on issues, and to advise me on what message should be taken back to Ottawa.

L'm asking John Davidson, a hardware retailer in Bolton, to chair the committee, and look forward to working with him.

Other committee members include Graham Goebell, of Georgetown; Colin McKinnon, of Caledon East; Eric Gudgeon, of north Burlington; and Jean Kelloway, of Caledon. I'll let you

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Turner announces council members

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner has released the names of local citizens who will be sitting as the initial members of the Advisory Council on Taxation.

"With a sweeping reform of the tax system proposed by Ottawa, I think it's essential people in the community understand what the government intends on doing," Turner said. "This advisory committee will help advise me on the effects of the reforms, while getting valuable public input that I can relay to Ottawa."

The committee is one of several initiatives Turner is taking to spread the message of tax reform in the riding. Recently he released the booklet, "A Citizen's Guide to the Sales Tax." This 20-page explanation of the proposed reforms is available, free of charge, to any person who would like a copy. The

Youth runs into car

A pedestrian on Mountainview Road ran into a car driven by an off-duty police officer last week.

A Georgetown youth, 13, allegedly ran eastbound on Mountainview Road near Guelph Street, striking the left rear door of a northbound 1989 Chevrolet Capris driven by a Halton Regional Police constable who resides in Mississauga.

The collision, which occurred at 11:30 a.m. March 3, caused minor damage to the car and sent the teen to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital with light injuries.

The boy has been charged under the Liquor Licence Act with consuming alcohol while under age.

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toll-free line to order a copy is who will act as the Council's first 1-800-668-4322.

"The basic thrust of reform will be to shift some of the tax burden from income to consumption," Turner explained. "It will

eliminate various existing taxes, especially for middle class people, and replace that lost revenue with a broadly-based sales tax on goods and services."

The citizen's committee will hold regular meetings across the riding, asking for input from taxpayers and community groups, and report to Turner.

"This will enable me to well represent in government the sentiments of people in the constituency," Turner said. It will also give us lots of time to explain the government's plans, before the tax is implemented, likely in 1991.

"With an important change in the way we're taxed, everybody has a right to know why this is taking place. My hope is that the committee will help me do that." The Halton-Peel Advisory Coun-

cil on Taxation's initial members include:

March 13 & 14 -

16 & 17

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

JOHN DAVIDSON, of Bolton,

chairman. John is owner of Davidson's Home Hardware, and a member of the Palgrave Rotary Club.

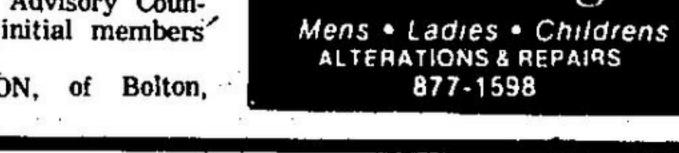
GRAHAM GOEBELL, of Georgetown. Graham is Senior Partner in the accounting firm of Goebell, MacAdam, Alexander.

JEAN KILLOWAY, of Caledon. Jean is a well-known member of the community, and a senior who is concerned about current levels of taxation.

ERIC GUDGEON, of Burlington. Eric is a retired chemical industry executive, and operator of the Lowville Heights Golf Club.

COLIN McKINNON, of Caledon East. Colin is a chartered accountant, and well-versed in various aspects of international valueadded tax systems.







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know when their regular meetings start.

TOWN HALL MEETING: There's time for another one before I have to head back to Ottawa for a while.

As with the other meetings, the premise is simple: I rent a hall, and you come to tell me what your MP should be saying and doing to well represent you. Bring your ideas, bring your concerns, bring your family - I'll be there.

The meeting is at the Inglewood Hall, Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30

AN INVITATION: To come and join me in Ottawa for the opening of Parliament, April 3.

This is a special day, when MPs stream through the corridors leading to the Senate, hear the Throne Speech, and then march back to the House of Commons. It is full of ceremony and history, and I am honored to be one small part.

You are invited to join me for a reception in my parliamentary office that afternoon; and afterwards for a trip around the Parliament Buildings as I put on my Tour Guide hat.

Please try to come. Dorothy and I would, like to share our new life ' with you.





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