

# Canada should operate as a business, residents say

Well, I've been doing this job for four months now, and we're three months into 1989. Time for some accounting.

We had a Town Hall meeting last week in the Inglewood hall and by the time everybody came we'd run out of chairs. One of the themes coming out of that meeting is that Canada should be operated like a business - and no successful business spends 30 per cent more than it makes every year. I agree.

And so you, the shareholders of Halton-Peel, deserve a quarterly report.

I've spent the last 90 days as effectively as I could. There were four Town Hall meetings and a major free trade seminar for businesses. Another seminar - this one on free trade and agriculture - will take place this Thursday in Georgetown (Gordon Alcott Arena, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), featuring a bevy of speakers from Ottawa.

I've appointed two citizens' advisory committees, one on taxation and the other on free trade. Shortly, I'll be naming the members of our very important environment committee.

During the last three months I've met with most local councillors and regional officials, along with speaking to hundreds of people with problems, or suggestions. Dorothy and I have enjoyed spending most nights out at community events, meeting more and more



**On The Hill**  
With  
Garth Turner

people. I have updated my Citizen's Guide to Free Trade, and produced a similar booklet explaining the proposed national sales tax. In Ottawa I've met privately with Finance Minister Mike Wilson, and have been working with him as he ponders his coming budget.

In short, it's been a busy - sometimes exhausting, always exhilarating - time. Now, it's off to Ottawa for awhile.

Parliament opens next Monday, and there is going to be a lot of action on the Hill. Right now we have rising interest rates as the Bank of Canada tries to slow down the economy, but at the same time avoid recession. It's a delicate balancing act.

Then there's Wilson's budget - this time a crucially important document.

As shareholders, you should know that we're bankrupt - with \$350 billion in national debt and a shortfall of \$30 billion a year in the budget. Obviously, this can't go on much longer, which means Ottawa has to pull back hard on the spending throttle.

I'm 100 per cent behind the feds

doing that. It's been too long that politicians have been lazy about the state of Canada's finances. It's cheating the future to run deficits and build up debt - our grandchildren will be saddled with unbelievably high taxes and a falling standard of living if we continue.

Wilson knows he has my support

on working towards a balanced budget, and I hope I have yours. We may be broke, but we're sure not broken.

Your investment can still turn out to be golden, but getting that return will require a lot of political guts and public will.

It's not easy for politicians to tell people they're going to get less, instead of more. But it's got to happen. Ignoring reality has a downside - which is what the middle-class folks in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela have learned.

So, in Ottawa over the next few weeks I'll be spreading the message that I've heard in our Town Hall meetings, on the telephone, and in hundreds of letters: Fix things, and fix them now.

With luck, and your support, shareholders can look forward to big dividends down the road

A FINAL REMINDER: As Parliament opens again, I'd like to share the experience with you.

Dorothy and I will be hosting a reception in my Parliament Hill of-

ice next Monday, April 3, from 2 p.m. until about six that evening. It's nothing fancy, but I would be pleased to show you where your MP hangs out in Ottawa, and talk to you about what it means to be a small part of a big government. Afterwards, on goes my Tour

Guide hat, and I'll walk you through Canada's historic, impressive and simply beautiful Parliament buildings.

If you can, please come. Let me know, by calling 1-800-668-4322. We look forward to seeing you in the capital.

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## Christian heritage party holds public meeting

The Christian Heritage Party Halton-Peel Riding will be holding a public information meeting Wednesday, April 12, at 8 p.m. at the Hornby Community Centre on Steeles Avenue at Trafalgar Road.

Gerry Sytsma (former candidate of the Haldimand-Norfolk riding) will be speaking on the future of the CHP. For more information or directions contact

Diane Leferink at 853-4493 or Cor Buikema at 877-4729.

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