

Abortion, new tax on parliament's agenda in fall sitting



On The Hill
With Garth Turner

Parliament starts sitting again in Ottawa next month and there's no question the feds will have a mess of things to deal with. Among the obvious issues are abortion and the goods and service tax, the fate of the Meech Lake deal and how the economy can be kept strong despite high interest rates and the increasing national debt.

As your MP, I'm going to have to deal with each one of those. The best thing I can do is to fairly and accurately represent you - to vote in Ottawa the way people here in our community want me to. And that means my immediate job is to listen.

So, I think it's time again for a round of town hall meetings. This will give several opportunities to come out and tell me how you feel on these and other issues. I want guidance on things like government spending. Tell me about Canada Post, before the committee I chair begins hearings into the corporation. Let me know what else we can do about the environment. Tell me your feelings on sales tax reform. At 7:30 each evening, I promise to be in the following places on the following days - and I hope you will be, too.

August 14: Brookville Hall, Guelph Line.

August 16: Acton Town Hall

August 21: Brant Hills Community Centre, Burlington.

August 22: Palgrave School.

August 29: Terra Cotta Town Hall.

August 31: Belfountain Hall.

September 6: Elks Lodge Hall, Norval.

I'll tell you, sometimes it's frustrating as hell being a politician. In my former life, I was a newspaperman, and a critic - and that was easy. Taking shots is nothing, compared with receiving them.

One thing I worry a lot about is the environment, and what the future will bring. We are a wasteful society, and our habits have to change. Now that I am a politician, I've been trying in my own way to bring attention to that.

Earlier this year Dorothy and I arranged clean-up days in Bolton and Burlington and Georgetown, and were so disappointed at the handful of people who turned out to help clean up the streams and roadsides. While the issue of the environment tops the polls, it seems many of us want somebody else to solve the problem.

I wrote a Citizen's Guide to a Better Environment, and sent a copy to every house in the riding of Halton-Peel. Again, we worked hard on that, putting together a few hundred tips on how all of us could change daily habits to help our planet breathe and be clean. Then my office assembled an en-

vironmental mailing list, so people in the community can be kept up on the latest news in this crucial field. And we established an Environment Committee, which has its next meeting soon. Our goal: To raise awareness; to educate the kids; to do something meaningful where we live.

And, for the past few weeks, I've been working on a book which will be published next January. It's an expansion of that little guide I mailed you - a book on how all Canadians can generate less waste, how they can access environmental groups, how we can avoid polluting, how our society can be a leader in terms of environmental protection.

It's not an easy or simple task. And I'll make no money doing it - all proceeds are going to be donated to help reduce the deficit.

Criticism comes with this job, but it's still frustrating. One of our newspapers last week told me my efforts are a "waste of time", that my colleagues in Ottawa are "cowardly and short-sighted" and that I should "do us a favour" and scrap the book.

Furthermore, I was told the government is one of the worst in the industrialized world in terms of the environment, and nothing has been done in Canada to stem acid rain. "We suggest," the paper said, "that if you are in fact concerned about the environment, you spend the rest of the summer working overtime lobbying your pals to get moving on this issue."

I guess it's still news to some people that an acid rain accord has been worked out with Yanks, and that Canada has shown leadership on the environment, though there's so much more to be done.

But apart from that, I can't believe that the environment is somebody else's problem - that "politicians" or "governments" can fix things overnight. Hell, we're still burying over 20 billion disposable diapers a year in this country. We're still buying over-packaged goods in the grocery stores and we're still poisoning the groundwater with industrial wastes and agricultural chemicals. The first step in my mind is to point the finger at ourselves, before we point it at others. This can result in immediate action.

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Quench that big summer thirst

By Ben Dummett
Herald Staff

What's the Slime and the Moscow Mule you ask? Well they're hot "B" movies, or creatures living at the bottom of the Credit River. They are two thirst quenchers a couple of local bartenders concocted to help people fight the summer heat.

Bellamy's bartender Linda Donnais came up with Slime one day while sitting out by her pool, at least that's how another of Bellamy's bartender's, Sandy

Smith described the momentous occasion. Ms. Donnais was unavailable for comment when the Herald was out on the investigative trail Saturday afternoon. The Slime is 1.5 ounces of Vodka, three ounces of Soda and two ounces of lime on ice of course. The combination of soda bubbles and the lime's sour flavor will make people yearn for hot weather year round.

For some the drink's only problem might be it's name. How many thirsty people, regardless of the temperature, would be drawn

to a beverage called Slime? Initially probably not many, but after Ms. Smith's explanation of the name's origins, people will realize another name would be inappropriate. What do you get when you take the "S" from the word soda and put in front of word Lime, "Slime" of course, Ms. Smith said.

The Moscow Mule is the creation of Bracken's bartender, Andy Dillon. Mr. Dillon recently moved to Georgetown from Grand Falls, New Brunswick and not a moment too soon.

The Mule resulted after some tinkering with several mixes, Mr. Dillon said.

The Moscow Mule, as you might have guessed, is named after the city of Vodka, and the animal with the "kick". It is one ounce Vodka, some ginger beer, lime and crushed ice. After one sip of this delicious mix, it's easy to realize the ginger beer gives it spice while the lime takes away the sweetness, leaving you with a sharp fresh taste and one heck of a jolt.

These two summer beverages aside, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Smith and bartenders at O'Tooles and Timeout all said "Canadians" being Canadians, beer is the "number one" thirst quencher, followed by Ceasars and Long Island Ice Teas.



Bellamy's bartender Sandy Smith serves up a cool and refreshing Slime for those trying to fight the summer heat. This is just one of the drinks sampled in the Herald reporter's recent thirst-quenching quest. (Herald photo)

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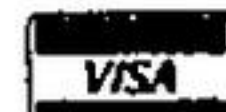
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