

Cut spending, deficit, residents say

Drag strip will serve as drainage area

Garth Turner
MP
Halton-Peel



Well, the current round of Town Hall meetings is almost over, and it's been quite an experience. Being an MP has its moments, and one of them has to be standing up in front of people who came to yell at you.

However, that's the point of these meetings - to listen, so I can better do my job in Ottawa representing the way citizens - and taxpayers - feel. Right now, in the immediate wake of Mike Wilson's GST tax details, most of us feel somewhat uneasy.

The meeting a few nights ago in Palgrave was typical of what's gone on. The room filled, and then I spent some time explaining what the feds have proposed - and why. Then we talked for the evening, solidly about taxes, government spending, the country's debt and what Ottawa should be doing. Some people were angry; some had come with a raft of questions; others were there to make sure I heard what they came to say.

In all the meetings so far, these are the themes which weave through the discussions:

(1) Cut government spending. Although this alone won't solve all of the country's money problems, it can help. Also important is the signal this would send out to people paying high taxes. It would tell them that the feds are not just dumping cash all over the place, but being responsible with tax dollars.

Sure, a lot of cuts have already been made. But more have to come, even though that will end up

hurting a great number of people. Still, I'm hearing that this must happen and that taxes alone can't be expected to put Canada right again.

(2) Make the tax system fairer. No loopholes for the rich or the corporations - everybody should pay their share.

Ironically, some people came to the meetings angry about the proposed Goods and Services Tax. But when the evening was finished, they were agreeing that a tax on consumption - which hits the big spenders instead of the savers - was the fairest way to go, so long as low-income people were protected.

As I've told you, the GST that Ottawa proposes isn't perfect, and I've suggested a few changes to Wilson. I believe we should have no exemptions and a rate lower than nine per cent. I also think consumers deserve protection under an independent watchdog agency which has some real powers, so when the old tax is removed people know prices will fall.

I'm lobbying hard in Ottawa for those things to happen.

(3) And the other thing the meetings have told me is that people are worried, sometimes embarrassed, by the fact Canada is plowing itself further into debt.

Every day, we add on more than \$80 million in new debt - which will add up to \$30 billion this year. We don't even have the money to pay the interest on the \$350 billion we already owe.

This is the greatest threat to our children and the children who will come after them. If we think our taxes are high, theirs will be crushing as the interest payments on the debt consume more and more of our money.

If the new tax raises money to pay down the deficit faster, then I sense most people will end up supporting it. That is, as long as the tax is fair and as long as the feds do their part by cutting bad government spending.

That's what I've been left with after the meetings - along with a lot of notes I made as people took their turn speaking. When we're done, all of this will be put in a report, and given to the finance minister as MPs come to debate the next step for GST.

I can't guarantee you anything. I'm finding that the system is complex and tough to change. There are a lot of people working in the finance department, and they all have their own ideas about the way things should be. Sure, some days I get frustrated. But some others I see light under their door.

Yes, we need to do a better job in Ottawa and, yes, these meetings have just served to reinforce what has to be done.

So, my real appreciation goes to the few hundred who took the time to show up and participate. It was easier not to. It was simpler to stay home and watch television than come and jump into a debate about Canada's future.

You have refreshed me for the coming trip back to Ottawa as Parliament resumes. Thanks.

A strip of land east of Acton called the "drag strip property," once home of the Toronto International Raceway, will be used for water drainage, the Town of Halton Hills decided.

The land sits on 148 acres beside a proposed 51-estate subdivision. The builder, a numbered Ontario company, (formerly Lyncean Developments Investments Inc.), applied for and received a rezoning for the property.

A town report says the land will be rezoned inherent hazard land from its present residential zoning, allowing recreational use. But the town will use the land for "storm water drainage management purposes."

"There are no known plans of the town to use this block for any active or leisure recreational activities," the report says.

Residents living near the drag strip property aired concerns at a public meeting held recently in the Halton Hills Civic Centre. Neighbors said the land was now being used for motorized vehicles and horseback riding.

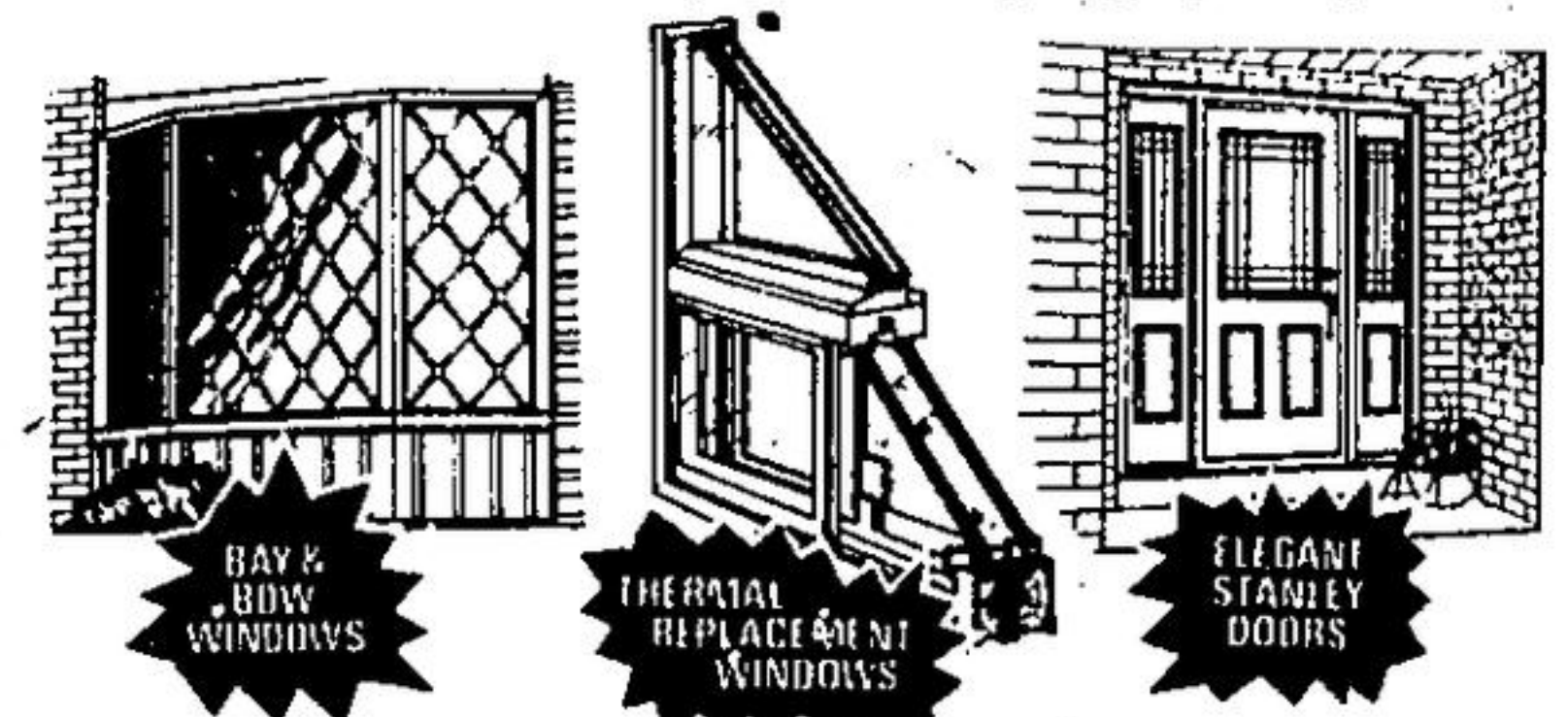
MY GENERATION

"Fashions For The Young At Heart"

115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN
Across from Knox Church 873-2851



"No one ever regretted buying quality"



Custom Design & Installation

- THERMAL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
- STANLEY THERMAL ENTRANCE DOORS
- PATIO DOORS
- SOFFIT, FACIA AND EAVESTROUGH
- SIDING
- PATIO DECKS AND FENCING
- SOLARIUMS
- NEW ADDITIONS
- CUSTOM DESIGNED BAY AND BOW WINDOWS
- ALUMINIUM AWNINGS AND SHUTTERS
- ELEGANT VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SHADES

CALL TODAY 873-3459
FREE ESTIMATES
All work guaranteed No Obligation to Purchase
QUALITY CREDIBILITY RELIABILITY

DENTURE THERAPY CLINIC

T.H. METTLER
Denture Therapist

72 Mill St., Georgetown
877-8974

102 East Dr., Bramalea
(Corner Bramalea Rd. & East Dr.)
791-2314

Elizabeths Fashions
Bridal Boutique

77 Main Street South
Downtown Georgetown
873-1470

WESTERN CARPET & VINYL

- BROADLOOM
- VINYL
- TILE
- AREA RUGS

FULL INSTALLATION DEPT.

FAST, FRIENDLY SERVICE



184 GUELPH ST. 873-2355 88 KENNEDY RD. BRAMPTON 456-0971

Double Size OR Double Prints



Save Up To 50% On Color Film Developing And Printing.

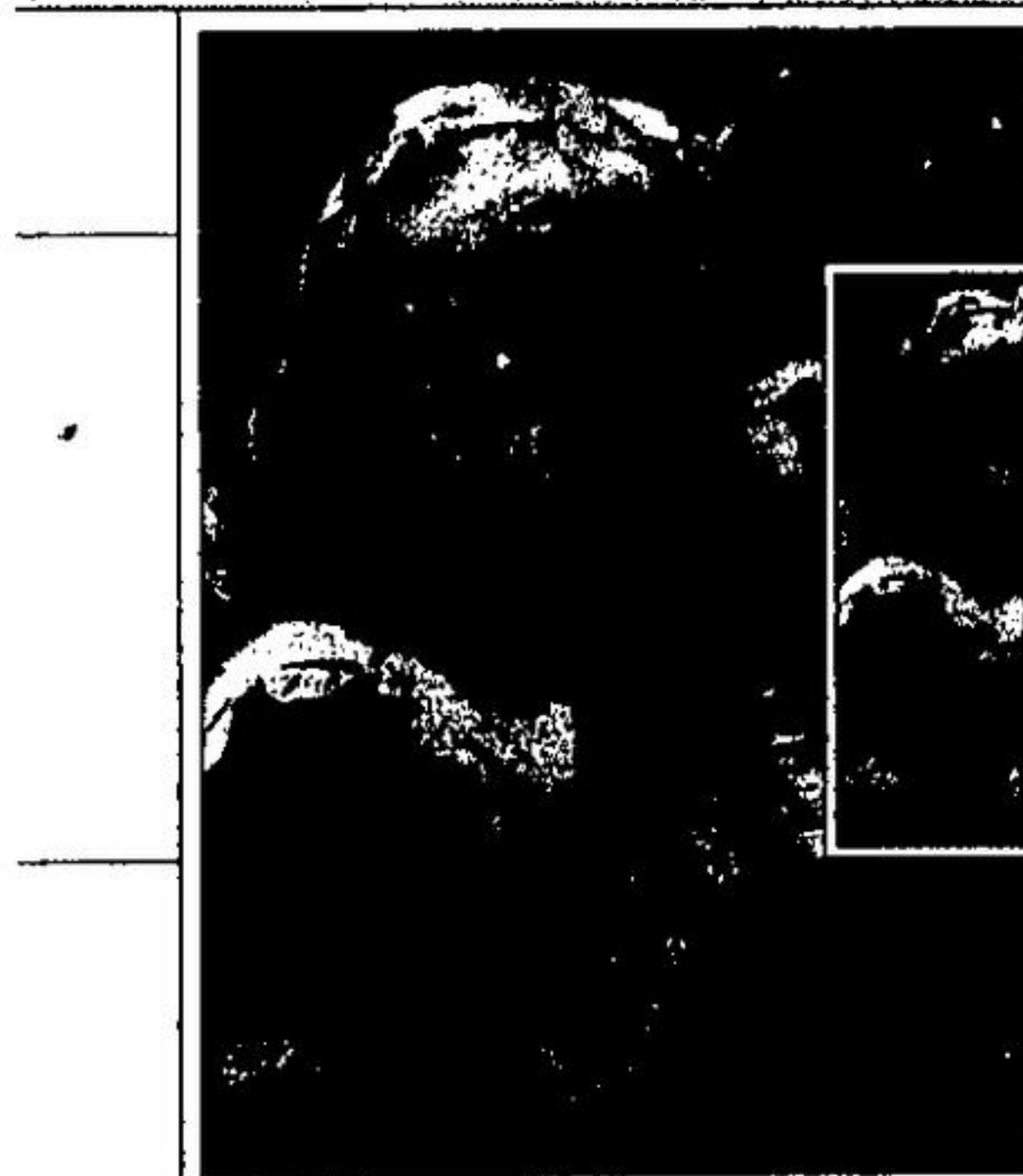
- Your choice...double prints or double size.
- 12 Exposure to 5x7 \$598 or up to 24, 3 1/2 x 5
 - 15 Exposure to 5x7 \$698 or up to 30, 3 1/2 x 5
 - 24 Exposure to 5x7 \$998 or up to 48, 3 1/2 x 5
 - 36 Exposure to 5x7 \$1298 or up to 72, 3 1/2 x 5

Excess Color Film developing and printing. Prepaid service on all C-41, 110, 135, 126 and Disc Film (Full Frame Only).

Baby Portrait Contest.

OVER \$10,000
IN PRIZES TO BE WON NATIONALLY!

A local baby photo contest is being held in your area. The most photogenic baby girl or boy winning this contest will be entered in Sooter's National Baby Contest and be eligible to win \$1,000.00 in cash or one of many other valuable prizes being offered. Contest Rules and Regulations will apply. See the Sooter Studio nearest you to book your baby's portrait appointment today.



Save On...

...Sooter's Super quality, Hi-Resolution Colour film. Regular Price \$4.99 ea. Now...Buy 2 Get 1 FREE for only \$8.99

... PLUS...
FREE 8x10

Colour enlargement with each purchase. Ask for details.

Sooter's

Tasty Recipes

PEACH COBBLER

- 1 cup Sugar
- 1 tbsp. Cornstarch
- 1 cup Boiling Water.
- 3 cups Fresh, Sliced Peeled Peaches
- 1 tbsp. Butter
- 1/2 cup Sifted All Purpose Flour
- 1 tbsp Sugar
- 1/2 tsp. Baking Powder
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 3 tbsp. Shortening
- 1/2 Cup Milk (approx.)

Combine sugar and cornstarch in saucepan. Add boiling water and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add peaches to syrup and pour into 8" X 8" baking dish. Dot with butter. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Sift remaining dry ingredients together. Cut in shortening. Stir enough milk into mixture to make a soft dough. Drop by spoonfuls over peaches. Bake in hot oven, 400 degrees, for about 30 minutes. Serve warm with cream.

Foodstuffs

- SPECIALS -

HONEY

99¢ / LB.

GOURMET COFFEE BEANS

\$4.59 / LB.

BRAN MUFFIN MIX (yields approx. 12)

79¢ / LB.

Foodstuffs
92 MAIN ST. S.
or PHONE: 877-6569