

Government must cut spending, residents say

By BENDUMMETT
Herald Staff

About 50 Halton Hills residents told Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner the federal government first must become fiscally responsible before it can consider accepting the proposed nine per cent Goods and Services Tax, at a Town Hall meeting last week in Norval.

The government is spending its money "stupidly" one audience member told Mr. Turner.

One local resident received a big round of applause after telling Mr. Turner the government was "crazy" to spend \$90,000 on the new Canadian Embassy in Washington.

Other residents suggested the government is spending too much money in areas such as foreign aid, the CBC and daycare.

Mr. Turner agreed the government had to show more restraint to expect the Canadian people's support of the GST, so he concentrated the meeting on soliciting ideas on how the government should cut back spending.

Georgetown resident Ray Ellis seemed to capture the audience's imagination when he suggested a bill be passed outlawing the government from running a deficit. The government's current interest is with its own survival rather than the people, he said. It's running a deficit to appease as many different interest groups as possible. The government should obey the financial rules applying to any normal family, he said. It should spend only what it collects and no more, he added.

Mr. Ellis based his proposal on the Gramm-Rudman bill, a two-year-old American law limiting the government's ability to run a deficit.

For his part Mr. Turner suggested the government "cut a deal" with its "Canadian shareholders." He said the government will garner public support for the GST if it guarantees no new tax for the next five years with the exception of the GST; "cuts spending like crazy no matter how much interest groups squeak, eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers and, like any business in financial trouble, sell off assets across the board."

Although not 100 per cent supportive of the GST he said it will help the government reduce the budget and make the tax system more equitable.

"The current \$350 billion debt is

killing Canada," he said. The interest on the debt alone means the deficit increases \$3 billion a year. So each year the government has to increase its payments just to stay at the same place, Mr. Turner explained.

Mr. Turner also said the current manufacturing sales tax which puts \$17 million in the government's coffers annually is unfair. Any tax that is invisible is necessarily unfair, he said.

The tax, which will apply to almost all goods and services will come into effect January 1991. It will provide the government with a steady flow of income to better plan for the future and help reduce

the deficit, Mr. Turner said.

At the same time middle-income tax rates will decrease by one per cent while rebate payments will be made to lower income families to

offset the tax.

But he said the tax could still be improved. The nine per cent rate could be reduced if exemptions were eliminated, he said.



Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner gives the straight goods on the government's proposed nine per cent Goods and Services Tax to local residents at a town hall meeting held at the Elks Lodge in Norval last week. (Herald photo)

Beardmore lands get sewer service

The Town of Halton Hills Tuesday approved sewer hook-up to Canada Packers Incorporated's 17-acre former Beardmore Tannery property in Acton.

The land, occupied by retailers after the tannery closed in 1986, has used a spray system for sewage - a system that has been called "archaic" and "odorous."

Canada Packers recently applied to use the municipal sewage system for the property south of Agnes Street and west of Highway 25.

"We feel this is good for ourselves, and good for Acton... for Halton Hills," said David Chapman, a retailer at the Canada Packers property.

Speaking to concerns that Canada Packers would get sewer approval and then sell the land, lawyer J. Paul Wearing said Canada Packers has no plans to sell in the near future. Besides, Mr. Wearing said, "at this point in time we have no clearance from the MOE (Ministry of the Environment) to do anything in the area that has been sprayed."

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller said the town welcomes the jobs created at the Beardmore site. "Employment has been a 'concern' since the tanning operation folded, he said.

A consultant representing three Acton landowners said his clients are opposed to sewer hook-up for Beardmore.

"This simply frustrates development in the Acton East area and is certainly of no benefit whatsoever to the town," said David Matthews of Patrick Sweet and Associates Limited.

But councillors said development in Acton has no relation to sewer hook-up for Beardmore.

Acton Coun. Norm Elliott said he is "anxious to see" (the proposal) succeed. Mr. Matthews' issue should not stand in the way.

Acton Coun. Rick Bonnette said the sewer hook-up represents "an historic moment" in Acton's history. "It will help solidify over 150 jobs," he said.

The town will ask for Halton Region's approval of sewage hook-up for Canada Packers.

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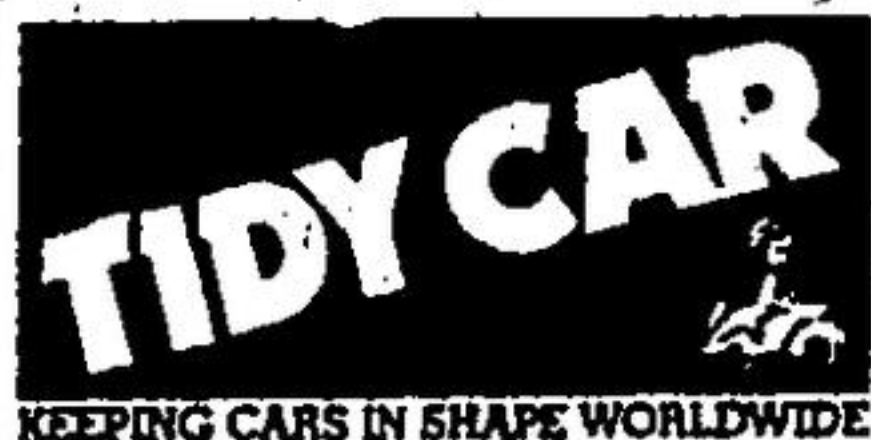
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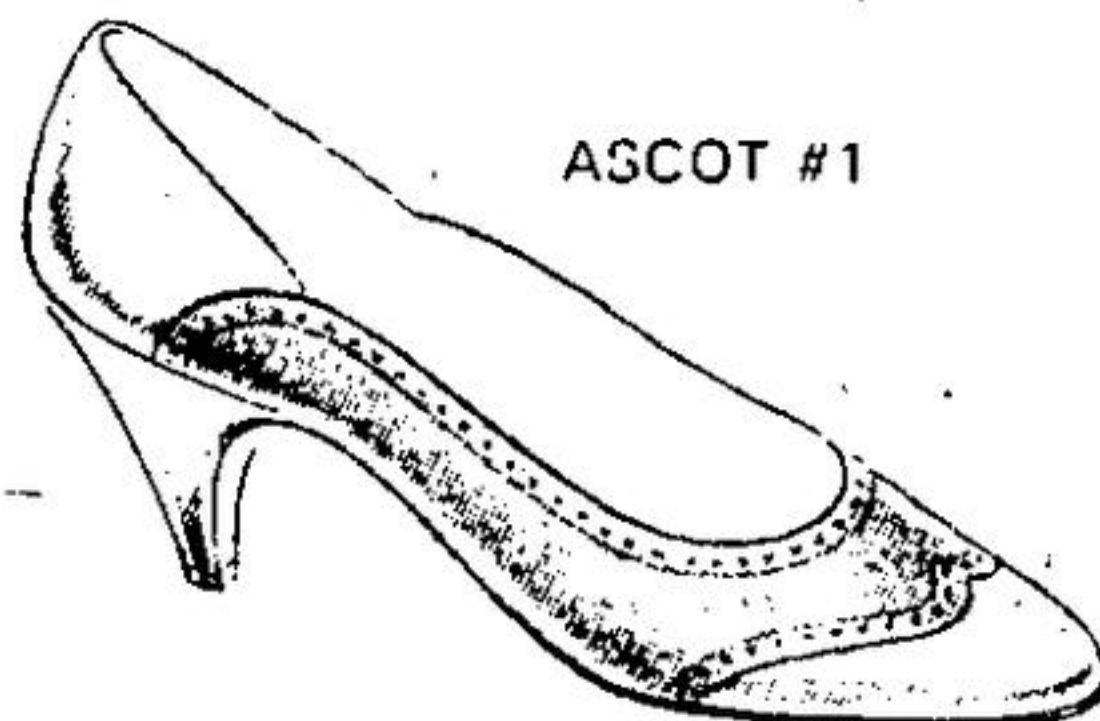
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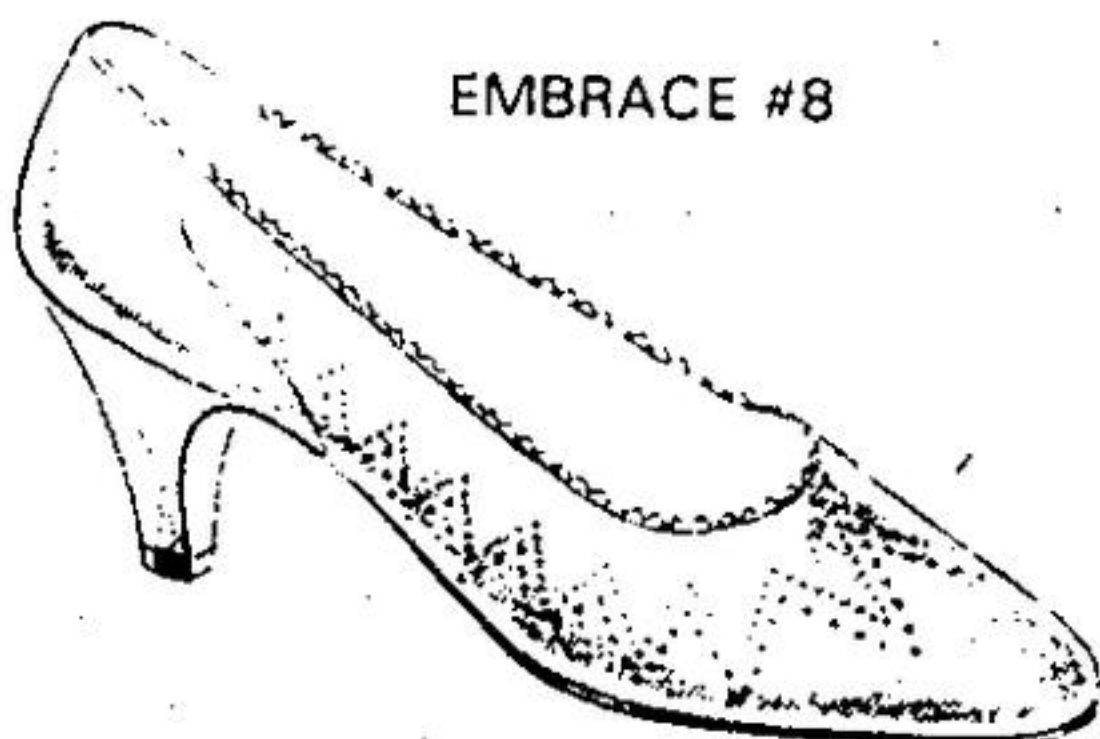
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ASCOT #1

Black and Grey

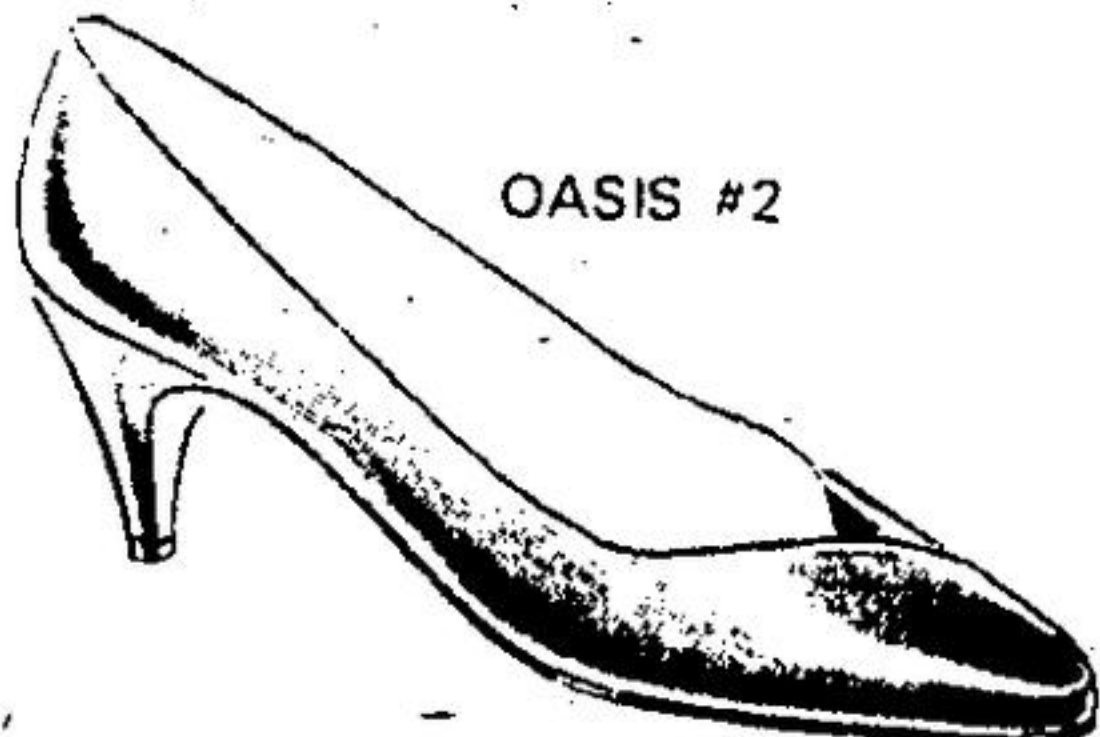
\$69⁹⁸



EMBRACE #8

Black, Navy, Taupe, Grey

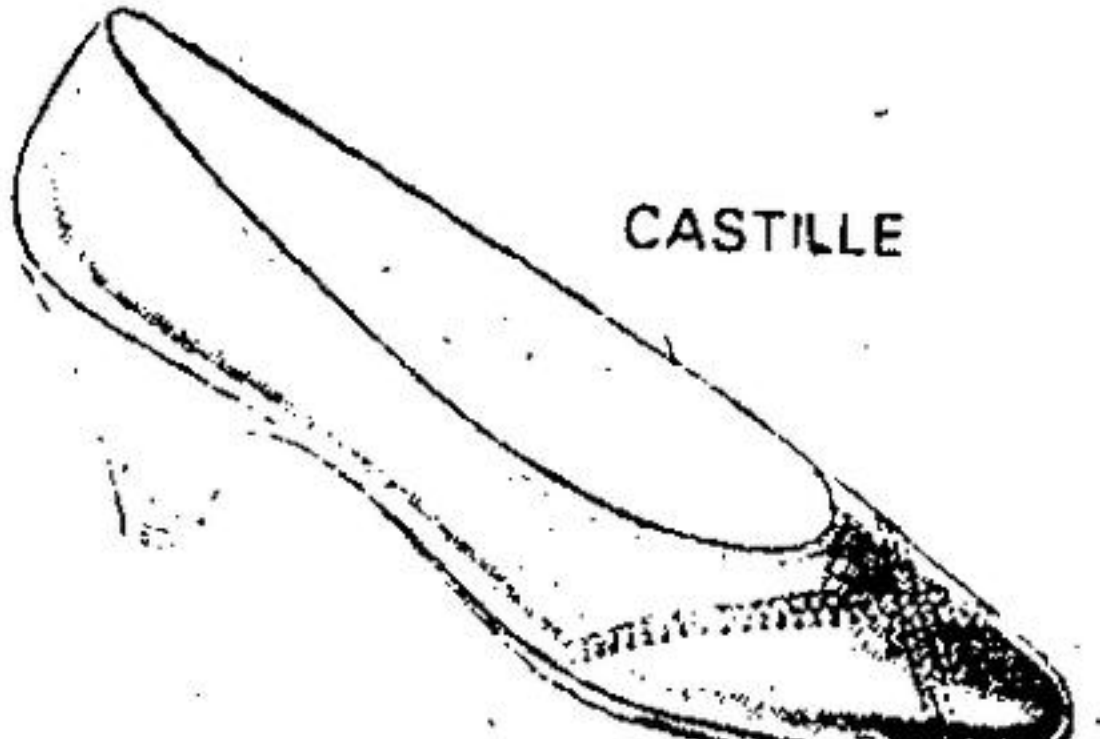
\$61⁹⁸



OASIS #2

Black Patent, Black Suede, Black Kid

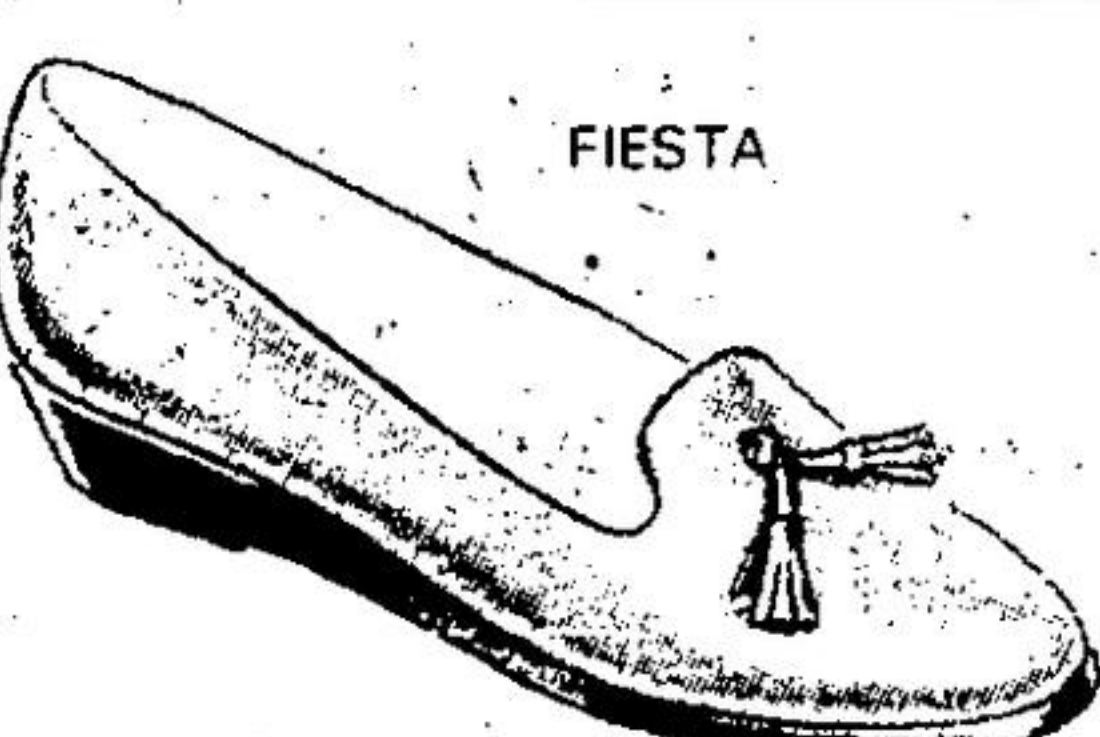
\$61⁹⁸



CASTILLE

Navy, Taupe, Red

\$61⁹⁸



FIESTA

Grey, Burgundy, Taupe

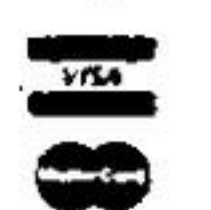
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