

MP Garth Turner heads review of Canada Post

A House of Commons inquiry into the operations of Canada Post and the possibility of selling all or parts of the Crown corporation will be headed by Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner.

Mr. Turner said in a press release last week beginning Oct. 24 the committee will review Canada Post "for the purpose of examining its current and future relationship with the federal government, the marketplace - urban and rural - its employees, and the interests of the Canadian public."

The committee will be "looking hard" at the possibility of privatizing Canada Post, Mr. Turner said. "Now that the minister responsible for the corporation has revealed that consultants are studying selling the post office, it's part of our job to see how Canadians react."

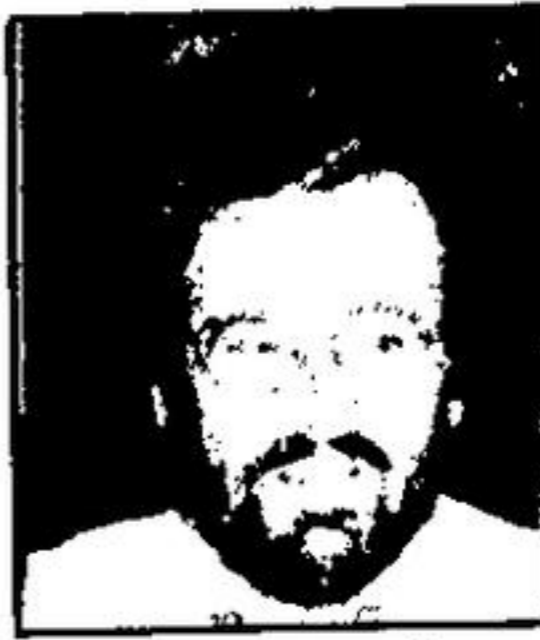
The MP said the inquiry will consider issues related to privatizing the post office, including effects on the quality of postal service, future postage rates, the treatment of rural Canada, employee shareholder plans and the "mechanisms (that) could or should be put into place to protect public interests."

The committee's findings are expected to extend over several months and will be followed by a "comprehensive report" to parliament.

Halton Hills rural post offices have recently undergone some service changes.

The Limehouse General Store was sold last year, and the new owners found the postal operation to be too costly to maintain. Ser-

vices were transferred to Vito's Market west of Georgetown.



Garth Turner

Terra Cotta General Store owner Ted Rombough recently signed a 10-year contract with Canada Post after a top postal official flew in from Ottawa for the negotiations. Mr. Turner was said to be an instrumental part of those pro-

ceedings.

Sources from Rural Dignity, a grass-roots organization opposed to the closure and privatization of rural post offices across Canada, said it is likely when Jean Carter, postmistress at the Norval post office, retires, the business will be replaced with a privatized postal service.

A representative from the crown corporation was in Halton Hills last week to discuss "better relationships" between Canada Post and the private sector. The representative said Canada Post is turning a profit for the first time in over 30 years. He said there should be more stamp sales in retail outlets.

Road closed

A street north of the Georgetown rail station called Railway Street will be closed for two months as Canadian National rail expands a layover track near the building.

Across from Rosetta Street, Victoria Street and St. Michael Street to the CN-owned laneway will be cut off for two months, beginning tomorrow (Thursday). Engineering staff for the town of Halton Hills met with CN officials in late September to discuss the closures. Signs warning of construction and road closure will be provided.

Minimal injuries

A 22-year-old Georgetown woman suffered minimal injuries and was treated at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital after the 1987 Pontiac she was driving eastbound on the Sideroad 10 east of the Ninth Line in Halton Hills went out of control and flipped over after hitting a ditch. Deborah Rodgers had swerved the Pontiac to miss a ground hog when the car went out of control police say.



"Pumpkinhead"

It may be too late for Thanksgiving pumpkins, but there's still time to get that big orange gourd for your jack-o-lantern. The great pumpkin in this patch is really Kristen MacKay, 12, of Limehouse. (Herald photo)

Schools' opening exercises up for debate

By November the Halton Board of Education should be ready to accept briefs or hear formal presentations on the content of its schools' opening and closing ceremonies, board superintendent of policy and planning, Bob Barry says.

The public will be given the chance to influence trustees on whether or not each school day should begin and end with a period of silence or biblical readings, Mr. Barry said.

He has received several letters from the public about the issue and their content has been as varied as the values of those writing them. They have ranged from those questioning the validity of young children being subjected to a period of silence when they don't understand its meaning, to the importance of children reciting the Lord's prayer.

In response to the provincial government's request that public school boards state what will make up their opening and closing ceremonies, Halton trustees passed a motion that Oakville trustee Judy Watson be appointed to the committee looking into the issue, at a recent board meeting.

This past January the then Minister of Education Chris Ward told all public boards to stop using the Lord's prayer in their opening and closing ceremonies. Other than the singing of O' Canada, boards were told they could use readings that reflect Canada's multicultural society and or a period of silence, Mr. Barry said.

Currently the Region's schools sing the national anthem and it's up to the individual school to decide if any readings are also used, he said.

After hearing the public's opi-

nions and completing its own research the committee will present its recommendations to the board, who will make the final decision.

Mr. Barry couldn't say when a decision will be made.

The committee is composed of a representative from the Halton Board of Education, the Halton Elementary Principal's Association, the Halton Home and School Associations, the Halton Secondary Principal's Association, the Supervisory Officers' Council and McMaster Divinity School.

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