Alcohol most abused drug in Canada



Walt Elliot MPP **Halton North**

LIBERAL

I recently spent two days in Ottawa on behalf of the Hon. John Sweeney, minister of housing. While there I had the opportunity to examine, at first hand, several issues that I have been asked to deal with in my role as parliamentary assistant. A two-day visit is not long enough to allow an intensive examination of any issue. However, it does allow you to get input from those directly involved and that type of information is the most valuable type of information.

I have been given the respon-





sibility co-ordinating the ministry of housing's anti-drug with the government's strategy overall response to what is a major social problem. While in Ottawa I had the opportunity to discuss with housing officials the problems and needs of eastern Ontario communities with regards to drugs. What I heard at these meetings was often different than comments made at other meetings in Toronto and Hamilton but some problems are very similar.

When people speak of a drug pro-

blem they usually have "crack" or heroin in mind. The reality, however, is that illegal drugs are second, if not third, on the list of most often encountered drug problems. Alcohol is probably the single most abused drug in North America. Family violence and break-up, medical problems and death and injury from drinking and driving are a problem in every part of Ontario.

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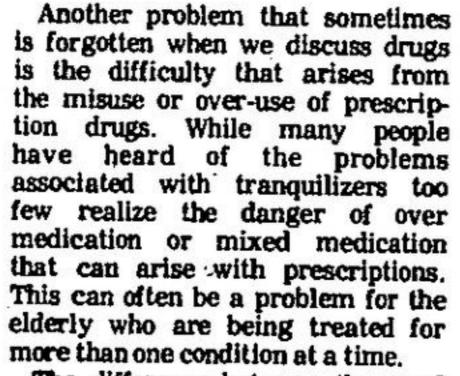
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The difference between the rural and the urban areas is with regard to illegal drugs. While near Toronto we are used to hearing stories about "crack" houses and used syringes being found in playgrounds, rural areas relate most of their drug problems to legal drugs such as alcohol and prescriptions. This means that the enforcement option is less useful in combating their problems.

On a happier note, I also had the



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opportunity to talk to several people about manufactured housing while in Ottawa. Manufactured housing or housing constructed in a factory rather than on a building site is beginning to enjoy a surge in popularity. During the last few months I have been examining the advantages and disadvantages of this type of structure.

After talking to officials from the City of Nepean about the possible use of this type of construction for

MY GENERATION

"Fashions For The Young At Heart"

115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN Across From Knox Church 873-2851 affordable residences I visited a factory in the Town of Morewood, that manufactures houses.

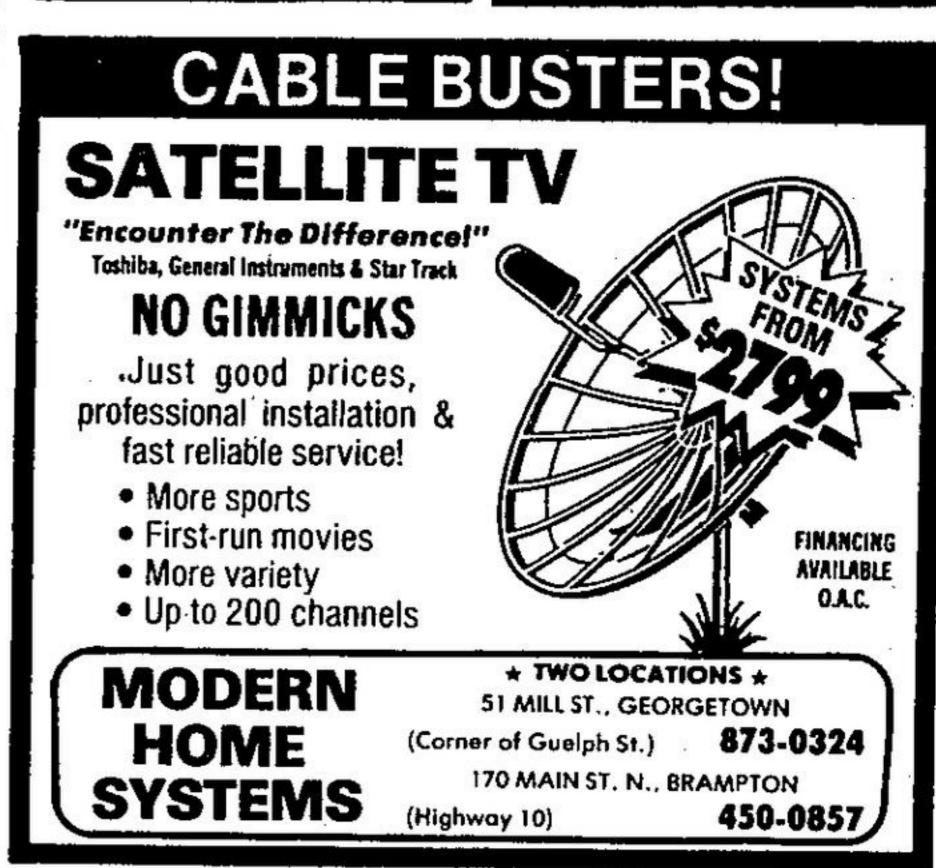
I must admit that it takes a little time to get used to the sight of a house moving down an assembly

While I was in Ottawa the federal budget was delivered in the House of Commons. Next week I'll have a look at what it means for Ontario.

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