

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 of co-ordinating the ministry of housing's anti-drug strategy with the government's 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 problem 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.

Another problem that sometimes is forgotten when we discuss drugs is the difficulty that arises from the misuse or over-use of prescription drugs. While many people have heard of the problems associated with tranquilizers too few realize the danger of over medication or mixed medication that can arise with prescriptions. This can often be a problem for the elderly who are being treated for more than one condition at a time.

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

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

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 line.

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.

Miller's BAKERY
British Bakers
CAKES for all occasions
British Breads & Pastries
877-0596 Sunday 10:00-5:00
Mon.-Sat. 9:00-6:00
330 Guelph St. Georgetown
ACROSS FROM NEILSON'S

DENTURE THERAPY CLINIC
A.W. TRENTON, D.T.
18 CHURCH STREET
GEORGETOWN
ACROSS FROM LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE
877-2359

Campbell House Gallery
115 MAIN ST. S. GEORGETOWN
(Above McCarthy's Tea Room)
873-0674

MY GENERATION
"Fashions For The Young At Heart"
115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN
Across From Knox Church 873-2851

SAME DAY TAX RETURNS
101 Guelph St., Georgetown
877-2217

CABLE BUSTERS!
SATELLITE TV
"Encounter The Difference!"
Toshiba, General Instruments & Star Track
NO GIMMICKS
Just good prices, professional installation & fast reliable service!
• More sports
• First-run movies
• More variety
• Up to 200 channels
MODERN HOME SYSTEMS
★ TWO LOCATIONS ★
51 MILL ST., GEORGETOWN (Corner of Guelph St.) 873-0324
170 MAIN ST. N., BRAMPTON (Highway 10) 450-0857

The Feminine Way
Passive Reducing Exclusive Ladies' Salon
"NEW" Paraffin Wax Manicure & Pedicure
873-4907
116 Guelph St. (Rear Entrance) Georgetown

What's Cooking at Steak Express?
Saturday is Sample Day
BOXED MEATS FROZEN FOOD
GEORGETOWN at Delrex & Guelph St. 877-0721
OPEN SUNDAY

VICTORIA LANE CHILDREN'S WEAR
NEW SPRING ARRIVALS
FROM
MA DIVINE CLÉMENTINE
70 MAIN ST. S. DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN
873-2452 MON.-SAT. 10-5:30

Exploring New Horizons
"... we returned to part-time studies at Laurier to keep current with what's going on in the world. The courses are of the highest quality and you're encouraged to explore new ideas ... university broadens your mind."
Agnes and Leo Goff
Brampton, Ontario
SPRING/INTERSESSION 1990
April 30 - August 10 (including exams)
Laurier offers courses both through classroom lectures and at a distance, through Telecollege. We're here to help you achieve your educational goals.
Classes are available for part-time students at Brampton Centennial Secondary School and at Hewlett-Packard. We're sure that you'll find classes to suit your interests, career and location.
Join us at our Information Session. You'll have an opportunity to get answers to questions, meet with staff and fellow part-time students. Bring a friend!
Thursday, March 8, 1990
Brampton Public Library - Main (Four Corners) Branch
65 Queen Street East - Auditorium 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Topics to be Discussed:
• admission and registration procedures
• academic counselling
• career and personal counselling
• library and other student services
For a complimentary copy of the Spring/Summer Part-time Studies Course Calendar or for personal assistance - just call us!
(519) 884-1970 Ext. 4447
OFFICE OF PART-TIME STUDIES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY
75 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5