

## Clarification

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Halton Hills Herald apologizes for any misinterpretation which might have arisen concerning the story headlined "Turner meets local realtors," which appeared in the Herald Outlook, Aug. 4.

A Herald reporter was invited to the meeting, held at North Halton Golf and Country Club, but only pictures of the participants were allowed. The media was barred from the actual meeting.

Subsequently, the Herald chose not to run the pictures.

Mr. Gary Brand, of NRS, faxed to the Herald a copy of his address to Mr. Turner, without qualifications, and the Herald based its story on the information provided by Mr. Brand in the fax. A copy of which the Herald has retained.

Halton-Peel MP, Garth Turner, was approached both in person and through his office a number of times to reply to the text provided to the Herald by Mr. Brand, but did not reply to the requests.

At no time was a Herald reporter present at the actual meeting between Mr. Turner and the local realtors.

## Children classed in three groups by ministry

Kids come in all shapes and sizes but the Ministry of Transportation classifies them in three groups when it comes to child restraints. By law, a child must be properly restrained when travelling in a motor vehicle.

When buying an infant seat, make sure it is certified by Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully to ensure the child will be comfortable and secure in the seat.

Infants - children who weigh less than nine kilograms (20 pounds) - must be harnessed in a rear-facing infant carrier or convertible seat.

These units must be secured to the vehicle by the lap belt of a seat belt assembly. If you need to look after your child while driving, the infant seat may be buckled in front.

When travelling in a parent or guardian's vehicle, toddlers - children weighing between nine and 18 kilograms (20 and 40 pounds) - must be harnessed in a forward-facing child car seat.

This seat must meet the requirements of the children's car seat and harness regulations under the Hazardous Products Act of Canada. The child car seat should be in the back seat and secured by the seat belt, following methods recommended by the manufacturer. A tether strap must also be used to fasten the seat securely to a specially-fitted bolt on the parcel shelf or other solid part of the vehicle. And remember, if your toddler's head is more than halfway above the top of the car seat, it's time to graduate to a lap belt.

When your toddler travels in someone else's car, he or she must be secured with a proper lap belt. This belt must be snug and low over the hips to prevent internal injuries in an accident. If your child is shorter than 137.5 cm (55 inches) or the shoulder harness lies flat across the toddler's face and neck, tuck the shoulder harness behind the back.

Booster seats, especially the unsafe household ones, are not a substitute for child car seats.

Preschoolers - children weighing between 18 and 23 kilograms (40 and 50 pounds) - must be properly secured by the lap belt of the vehicle seat belt assembly.

The Highway Traffic Act now states, "No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway in which there is a child passenger weighing less than 23 kilograms who does not occupy, if available, a seating position for which a seat belt assembly is provided."

**PHOTO REPRINTS**  
appearing in The Herald  
**877-2201**

# Turner launches attack on media

How many times have you heard somebody say the government doesn't communicate with people - tell them, straight out, what it's doing, and why?

I sure hear it. Think about all the big and complex issues which have been tossed our way in the last while. There was free trade, then Meech Lake, then the GST and an ongoing war against the deficit. Hey, these are not small, simple things - if people are going to have an informed opinion, they have to be communicated with.

I certainly don't control the federal government's ability to do that communicating.

But, here in Acton and Georgetown, Bolton and Caledon, there are direct things which I can do to talk to people. So, I write this column at the end of each week. And I have open Town Hall meetings. And I send out pamphlets on issues, make speeches, and spend hours on the telephone.

There will still be many people who don't feel I've done enough.

And I can hardly blame them. Let me give you a couple of small insights into this business of communicating with citizens and taxpayers.

Two months ago the finance

**Garth Turner**  
MP  
Halton-Peel  
PROGRESSIVE  
CONSERVATIVE



minister came to Georgetown, to take part in an excellent "Deficit Reduction BBQ" that the chambers of commerce hosted. As I've told you before, there were about 600 people inside the arena to hear the man and about 100 outside to protest the GST.

Inside the hall, the man answered questions and was well received. If course, all the news media had been invited to attend - and the hope was they'd communicate what the questions and answers were.

Well, some did, most did not. The Toronto media concentrated on the protestors, and made them the story. The local paper gave the busied-in union members

coverage equal to that given Wilson and the deficit-reduction event and the Chambers and the six times more people inside the arena.

Overall, coverage was negative. The fact the local business community was doing something positive for Canada, the fact so many people came out to get their questions answered; the fact the finance minister came to Georgetown - all of that was somehow erased by some protestors. They hijacked the media's attention.

Another example:  
The housing market has been in a slump - for a variety of reasons - and that has caused concern in the real estate business. Local realtors wanted to meet me on this topic, and because that's my job, I agreed.

So, last Wednesday morning I faced about 70 of them for a two-hour session on the economy. There was a great deal of information exchanged, in an atmosphere of co-operation. Those I spoke with afterwards were happy.

It certainly wasn't a love-in, but we did gain a new respect for each other's situation. I listened to the words of people whose lives are be-

ing affected now, and they listened to my words on the realities facing the feds.

Two days later the local media coverage was something quite different.

What I saw was a very negative story flowing out of a private meeting which the reporter didn't attend. In no way did it reflect what took place there.

After the meeting, I'd felt good. I'd had a chance to talk at length about a number of complicated issues.

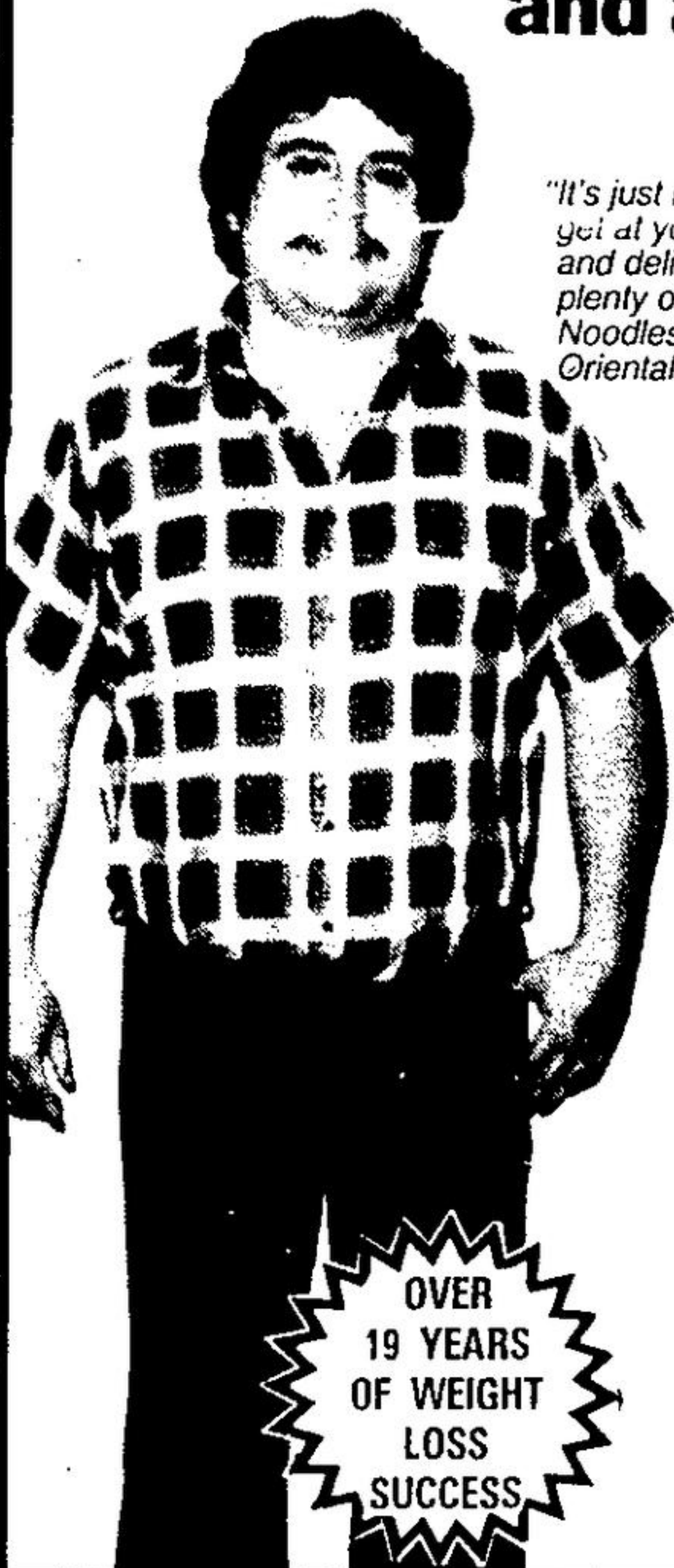
But after I read the newspaper story, I felt different.

All of us - reporters and politicians - have both rights and responsibilities. We should both serve the community, going beyond either vote-chasing or profits. Political propaganda is wrong. So is sensationalism. If we can inform people about the things they should know, and not use taxpayers' dollars, isn't that just being smart?

There are those who do not want anything positive to reach you. They may even take pains in searching for the cloud in every item.

Think about that the next time somebody says the feds don't communicate.

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