

# Editorial

## Shattered dreams

For those Canadians lucky enough to live in relative comfort, Thanksgiving Day just past represented another opportunity to share good food, good company and warm, cozy surroundings with family and friends.

In this not-so-perfect world, however, such opportunities - and the hope for same - appear to be lessening with each passing day.

In the not-so-distant past, it was a given thing that by working hard and being aware of finances, each and every Canadian would one day be able to own his/her own house.

This need for hearth and home (and it is indeed a need, as sociologists have documented) was taken for granted as being attainable. Sad to say, this is not the case any more.

High interest rates for loans and mortgages have been fingered as the chief cause of houses going unclaimed or not even being started but this is merely a smokescreen being used to hide the real culprit - namely affordable housing.

In the boom years of the early to mid-80's, mansions were being built for the well-to-do while the little guy was forgotten.

Now, these mansions are sitting empty and the housing industry is crying the blues. 'As ye sow, so shall ye reap.'

This same indictment of lack of foresight can be levelled in clear conscience at both the provincial and federal governments. Affordable housing, obviously, was not one of their respective priorities - although it should have been.

The recent opening of Carruthers Road Cooperative in Georgetown was hailed by Alan Redway, Minister of State (Housing) for the federal government who also added, "The federal government is proud to be a part of such a project."

But for how long.

The Carruthers Road Co-op became a reality because of the financial backing of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, guaranteed by the federal government.

But this year, as part of its deficit reduction policy, the federal government cut 15 per cent from CMHC's budget for new clients for its social housing program.

It is an accepted fact that sub-standard accommodations result in increasing health-care costs for both children and adults.

Similarly, social welfare costs increase and this, in turn, increases the taxpayer's burden.

Governments, at all levels, should make it a priority to ensure that Canadians have a decent place to live.

This not only makes sense from a humanitarian point of view, but increasingly, from an economic point of view as well.

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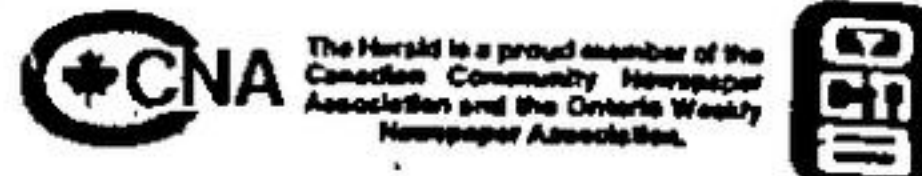
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## Letters

### Turner attacks Senate

Dear Editor:

In 1988 I ran to be your Member of Parliament in the federal election. I wanted to earn a vote in the House of Commons and represent our community.

In that election your ballot - no matter for which candidate it was cast - was important. You were following the rules of democracy.

I'm writing to tell you that your vote, and mine, no longer matter. The unelected Senate has decided it has the right to throw out laws which a majority of MPs supported.

For example:

- I voted for a Large Corporations Tax which would see companies pay a fairer share of tax. That was passed by the House of Commons in 1989. But the Senate won't let it go through.

- I voted to change the unemployment insurance system, so we pay people to retrain, instead of just not working. That was passed by the House of Commons in 1989. But the Senate won't let it go through.

- I voted for a package of measures to cut government spending by billions of dollars. That was passed by the House of Commons. But the Senate won't let it go through.

The Liberal senators took our votes away on those things. They say because the GST is unpopular that they have the right to block or reject what the majority of MPs in the House of Commons want.

I resent this. And I regret the only way to restore my vote is now for the government to approve

more senators who will not hold up legislation. The Senate has to be reformed, or maybe abolished.

As your MP, I wanted you to know these things. What is happening now is important, historic and

troubling.

Either we have a Parliamentary democracy, or we don't.

Sincerely,  
Garth Turner, MP  
Halton-Peel.

### Turner's record is attacked

Open letter to Garth Turner M.P.  
Dear Garth:

How presumptuous can you be? Yes, I said I'd vote the right way if you appointed me to the Senate.

It boggles the mind how you could believe that you way (passing the G.S.T. and gouging the tax payers again) is the right way!

Over 80% of Canadians can't be wrong!

You have forgotten who you represent!

A local tory newspaper heralded your move to resign as chairman of the House of Commons committee of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations. They said you had found your roots again! Why didn't you find your roots when it came time to vote against the GST. Garth, is that because you wanted to distance yourself from the government and look good or were you going to lose the job on your own merits?

You can on the platform of defending the middle-class and against taxes (also in favour of the Mulroney Free Trade Agreement that is bringing us so many jobs

and economic prosperity!) You pointed to your staged protest on the steps of Queens Park over their 1% increase of the PST as proof of your commitment against this type of tax.

Your true blue colours are now coming through loud and clear!

You pretend to defend the middle-class, pretend to support lower taxes and real tax reform.

What happened to the supposed voice of the people, now turned apologist for the government? Perhaps it's all just showmanship!

It may have gotten you elected once but the people who elected you won't forget your hypocrisy! (In Parliamentary language that would read "You misled the People," just in case you forgot how we The People communicate).

If you think your way is the right way then tell your master to go to the People. If he won't, why don't you resign your seat! And let the People in this riding decide!

Yours sincerely,  
Pierre Klein,  
Halton-Peel Liberal  
Candidate, 1988  
Federal Election.

### Letter of the week

## Loblaws blasted

Editor's note: The following letter was forwarded to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Ms. S. Hawkins,  
Senior Manager  
Public Relations  
Loblaws Companies Ltd.  
22 St. Clair Ave. E.,  
Suite 601,  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2S5

Dear Ms. Hawkins:  
Loblaws "GREEN" marketing strategy has undoubtedly boosted sales. Too bad it's only a sales pitch and not a genuine effort to become more environmentally responsible.

In your August 22, 1990 memorandum to all store managers, Areas 1 and 2, Loblaws Supermarkets and Supercentres, you outline Loblaws' outrageous policy on cash refunds for reused bags. Only for short-lived paper and plastic bags do you provide a three cent refund. Those terrific string bags that you sell, or people's own canvas bags, don't qualify! Yet these bags will live much longer than the paper and plastic kind. (The bit about the string bags being subsidized by Loblaws is a sorry excuse that doesn't explain away the reason

for not providing a refund to folks bringing in their own canvas or cotton bags.)

Will Loblaws consider taking a more proactive step to aid in the war against garbage production? Rather than rewarding the use of those short-lived bags, how about charging people that use them exactly what they cost? (Don't forget to factor in the depletion of our non-renewable resources (i.e. oil) and the huge amounts of toxic waste generated when producing plastic and paper). Of course if the bag survives a second trip, the user should not be charged again. Or better still, don't provide bags at all.

I am only too happy to continue using the string bags that I purchased from Loblaws, and I do not need three cents every time that I use one. However, the practice of rewarding those that use the inherently disposable substitutes, must stop - make the user pay!

Sincerely,  
Diane van de Valk,  
Georgetown.

P.S. - Somehow the "Green" sweep missed the Disposable Bird Feeders - get real.

### Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

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