

Letters

Turner called to task for Canada Post

Dear Editor:
Despite dreadful flaws in Canada Post's rural privatization program, MP Garth Turner clings to the idea (October 31 column) that selling off the whole corporation is better than fixing problems his government helped create.

All we need, in the world according to Garth, is a fully privatized post office and an appeal agency where people can take their complaints.

Well, if total privatization means a whole lot more of what we've had these past four years in rural Canada, we're in deeper poop than I thought.

As for the appeal agency, maybe Garth forgot that just such an organization was appointed by his own government in 1988, then scrapped a few months ago in Michael Wilson's budget. This Postal Services Review Committee (chaired by businessman Alan Marchment) dared to be critical of many Canada Post policies, including unfair treatment of dozens of small communities. It didn't last long.

The saddest irony of all is that prior to 1986 - that's when the federal Conservatives approved Canada Post's plan to privatize rural post offices - there was no need for an appeal agency, because there were so few complaints! It was this 1986 policy -

still steaming ahead despite serious defects - which has created the need for a complaints bureau in the first place.

Tory politicians themselves don't like taking the heat this rural privatization plan has generated. When it's expedient, they say their hands are tied: "As you know, this Crown Corporation is not accountable to anyone other than its own senior management." (Garth Turner, October 5, 1990). This, of course, is nonsense, so Garth changed his tune last week's column: "What we can do is review the annual five-year plan and make Canada Post more accountable."

Instead of trying to rise above the current mess by advocating something that won't happen tomorrow (or next year, and maybe never), why doesn't Garth (with the help of his Tory colleagues) just make Canada Post accountable to its own slogan: "Our commitment: Better service for you."

That's pretty simple, and wouldn't no way constitute "political interference". All it means is Canada Post can't cut back hours of service to rural people or close public post offices against their will. It means increasing hours where mail volumes have multiplied (and that's a lot of places, including many in Halton-Peel). It means establishing and meeting rural

delivery standards, because none exist right now.

If Canada Post were accountable to its own promise, Garth could put a 'stop payment' on that personal cheque for \$168 he sent to Canada Post last week to keep the Alton post office going at noon for two weeks. Alton had rightly protested that losing an hour of service over lunch (which happened September 24) didn't exactly live up to Canada Post's 'Better Service' commitment. Garth's cheque is supposed to prod the corporation to action: "Maybe if people patronize the place during that period of time, Canada Post will change its mind," he reasons.

It's interesting to note that \$168 is approximately what the Limehouse retail outlet contractors were paid by Canada Post to keep their postal operation going for two full weeks. Not just at lunchtime, but all day, from first thing in the morning until 9 at night, plus weekends. No wonder they dropped the contract in late 1988. No wonder privatization, Canada Post-style, is scorned.

Garth's personal cheque may be an astute political move, but it doesn't solve Alton's problem

over the long term, unless Canada Post suddenly reverses itself. It ignores Caledon Village and Inglewood's noon closure, and does nothing to redress postal problems in hundreds of small communities which don't have MPs willing to shell out for what Canada Post has taken away. Garth is dead wrong when he implies there is more postal protest in Halton-Peel as a result of his privatization report. That's simply not the case. Maybe he should have a word with his caucus colleague, Muskoka-Parry Sound's Stan Darling, for starters. And there are many more 'hot spots' at the moment, like Alert Bay, BC, McCreary, Manitoba and Aroostook, New Brunswick.

There is still time to restore and strengthen rural post offices, if Garth and his colleagues so choose. If not, when the next federal election rolls around, I hope rural Canadians remember this: Canada Post is accountable to all of us, through the government we elect.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Armstrong
Rural Dignity of Ontario
Erin, Ontario

Reduce unneeded garbage

Dear Editor:

I feel very strongly about our planet's pollution and garbage problem and I agree totally with what Mr. Sommer said in his article "Mankind must become caretaker of the planet". His opinion on keeping our air, water and soil pure could not be more true since those elements are the very root of our environment.

Over-population is a problem that our world faces but the

amount of unneeded garbage could be considerably reduced if everyone, myself included, would take the time to think of ways to reduce our garbage, such as recycling, etc.

I would appreciate ideas you or Mr. Sommer might have to help reduce garbage and I would like a reply. Thanks.

Yours truly,
Kevin Tribe,
Acton.

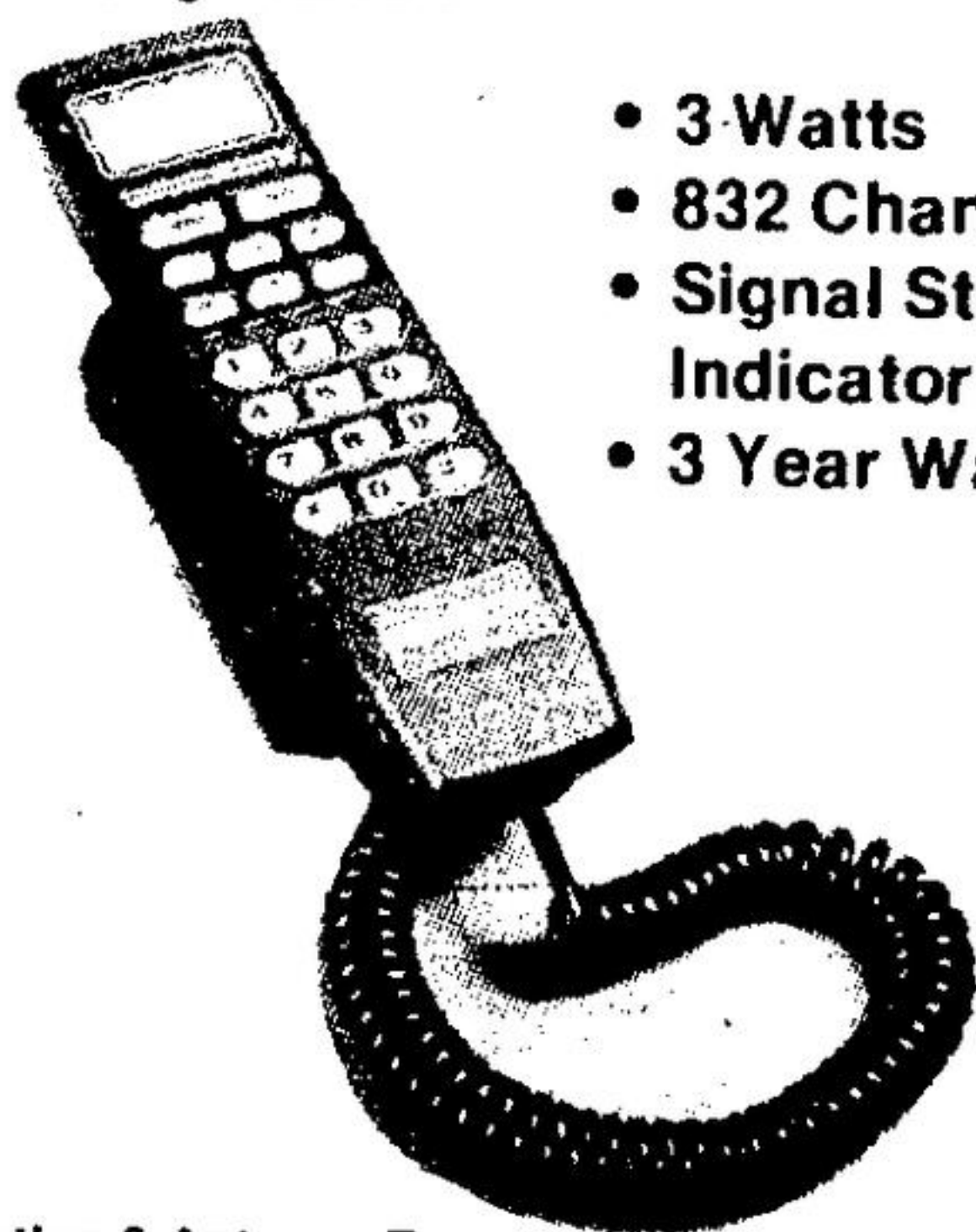
HALTEL Phones, Fax & Cellular
Communications Inc. & Cellular

SPECIAL

Audiovox SP-85 Cellular Phone

\$499⁰⁰

Financing Available



- 3 Watts
- 832 Channels
- Signal Strength Indicator
- 3 Year Warranty

*Installation & Antenna Extra.

CANTEL APPROVED AGENT

265 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN 873-3310

Home hardware building centre

GEORGETOWN

Come And See Us At Our New Location

333 GUELPH ST. (OLD CO-OP) 877-8277

OPENING SPECIALS & PRICE BUSTERS

3/8" Black & Decker CORDLESS DRILL	Reg. \$119.00	\$79.99
BLACK & DECKER BELT SANDER	Reg. \$169.00	\$69.99
FLOOR TILE — 3 Colour	Reg. 99¢ Sq. Ft.	49¢
HUMIDIFIERS	Reg. \$99.99	\$79.99
Caulking Gun/Caulking		SPECIAL \$7.77

PLUS MANY MORE IN-STORE SPECIALS

STORE HOURS:

Mon., Tues., Wed. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

BIGGER, BETTER BUT STILL THE BEST SERVICE IN TOWN!

MISSISSAUGA HEARING INSTRUMENT SERVICES

Hearing Instrument Practitioner of Ontario

We will provide FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for the purchase of hearing aids for residents in Ontario who need them.

IN HOME SERVICE - NO CHARGE
• EVENING APPOINTMENTS •

Office: 102 East Drive, Suite 204, Bramalea

(Closed Thursdays)

CALL COLLECT -

(416) 791-8143

FINAL TOUCH ESTHETICS TANNING & TONING

We Specialize in Full Body Care

Keep Your Summer Tan Through The Fall!

SPECIAL 10 TANNING \$40 SESSIONS

With Presentation Of This Ad

Come And See Us For All Your Winter Skin Needs

873-6013

HOURS:
Mon.-Fri.
9:00-9:00
Saturday
9:00-6:00

