

# Political Forum

## Ottawa Report

# Individual Canadians can play role in Gulf war

The horrible oil slick now killing the waters of the Persian Gulf is a symbol of the enormity of war. It also shows we are fighting a man with neither morals nor ethics.

Watching the television images, we can all feel helpless - about the loss of human life, the environmental damage or the terror of missile attacks.

But we are not helpless. I believe there's a role that we, as individual Canadians, can play in this war. Consider this:

- Come to one of my special town hall meetings on the Gulf war, so we can share our feelings, our concerns or our support. Tonight (Jan. 30) I'll be in Acton at Trinity United Church, 70 Mill St., at 7:30 p.m. Tomorrow night, same time, the meeting will be in Georgetown at the Lions Hall, behind Memorial Arena. Next week I'll give you details of meetings in Palgrave, Bolton and Campbellville.

- If you can't come, then write me. I'm collecting letters from people in our communities on the war, and sending them directly to the prime minister's office. My address is 27 Main Street South, Georgetown, L7G 3G2.

- Donate blood. There is

already a shortage of blood in Iraq, and demands for more will certainly explode as the ground fighting intensifies. Civilian victims and soldiers on all sides of this conflict deserve this gift of life. I am working now with the Red Cross to make some blood donor clinics available. Watch this space for details.

- Donate money. The Canadian Red Cross is trying to collect a million dollars to finance humanitarian activities in the Persian Gulf area. You can send a cheque to the local branch, writing on the bottom of the cheque that it's for the Persian Gulf Appeal. The money will go for refugee camps - medicine and shelter for the war's victims.

- You can show support for our troops as many others are doing - by wearing a Maple Leaf flag lapel pin. It is a peace symbol of its own, as we battle for an end to aggression. Drop by my office for your pin.

- You can conserve fuel. It's only common sense, anyway, but the Gulf War underscores again how wastefully we use oil - an energy source which is non-renewable and polluting and largely located in an area of the world that's a political powderkeg. Turn down the ther-

**Garth Turner**  
MP  
Halton-Peel  
Progressive Conservative



mostat, drive more slowly, car pool. We all know what to do, and now's the time to do it.

- Better yet, start thinking about alternate fuels. Like propane and natural gas, ethanol or methanol. Our oil dependence has to end. Would Saddam Hussein have attacked Kuwait if North Americans were driving cars fuelled by, say, corn?

- Explain what's happening to your children. Not necessarily who's right or wrong in this, but

the issue of war itself. When politics fail, war follows. There is no reason to be afraid, here in Georgetown or Bolton, but there is much reason to be sad.

- Write our Canadian troops. They are doing a job for us. They believe their mission is worthwhile and that they will protect the freedom that Canadians enjoy - a freedom which has been denied others. They are very brave men and women, and I know would love to hear from all of us. Send your message to my office, and we will send it to the Gulf.

- And let's talk about what should come after this war. What role should the United Nations have? What role for Canada? How can we make a Middle East peace conference work, addressing the larger issues, like Palestine and Israel? Write Joe Clark, the external affairs minister, with your thoughts. His address is Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, Room 165, East Block, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6.

War is forcing us to face some things we have let slip. International arms sales, for example - the kind which let a loser like Saddam arm himself to the teeth, while the western world turned a blind eye. Joe Clark said last week that has to end, forever.

And then there are events in the Baltic states, as those republics are brutalized. Is Gorbachev using the Gulf War as a convenient diversion, as he sends in the tanks? Canada must condemn that.

Finally, what if we were attacked? The Gulf War shows how little actual equipment we have to defend ourselves. Our military survival seems to be in the hands of the United States. Do we want that? Or would it be foolish to spend our meagre resources on more hardware?

War has come, but hopefully, it will soon end. It brings with it questions, and demands, that we all must face - and, each of us, respond to. We all have a role to play.

## Queen's Park Report

### Housing initiatives

In this week's report, I would like to outline the initiatives announced by Ontario Housing Minister Dave Cooke on January 22/91. On that date, Mr. Cooke proposed a \$35 million package aimed at creating jobs and improving our province's housing supply.

According to the Minister, this money will not only help create jobs quickly in the building trades but in many instances will also help improve the living conditions for disabled individuals, native people, low and moderate income families and others hardest hit by the recession.

We expect that the housing package will generate the equivalent of approximately 600 full-year jobs in the building sector in 1991/92. Consultation will begin immediately with various groups and municipalities to assist the Housing Ministry in determining which communities are allocated funding.

The funding includes the following improvements:

- \$15 million to upgrade as many as 3,000 private rental units in older low-rise apartment buildings. Under the Ministry's Low Rise Rehabilitation Program, landlords can apply for forgivable loans. The loans cover up to two-thirds of the cost of repairs up to a maximum of \$5,000 per unit. Only essential repairs to such things as plumbing and replacement wiring will be considered. Private rental buildings of four stories or less and that are at least 25 years old are eligible. Rooming houses are also eligible.

- \$6 million to repair and rehabilitate native homes both on and off reserves.

- \$3.5 million to improve safety and security and accessibility for families and individuals living in selected Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) buildings. Improvements will include better lighting in public areas to installation of entry phones in the lobbies of the buildings. Accessibility will be greatly improved for disabled and frail elderly



**Noel Duignan**  
Halton North  
MPP  
New Democratic Party

residents by, for example, installing access ramps and grab rails in hallways.

- \$500,000 to launch a garbage recycling program in appropriate OHC buildings. Work will include creating or improving garbage bin areas to make it easier to sort and pick up recyclable materials. This program will be suitable for municipalities in which recycling programs are already operating.

- \$5 million to modify 500 privately-owned homes for disabled occupants. Under the Ontario Home Renewal Program for persons with physical disabilities, homeowners who are disabled or who have disabled dependents or family members living with them are eligible for forgivable loans of up to \$15,000 for such modifications as adding wheelchair ramps and stair glides. Income restrictions apply.

- \$5 million to install energy-efficient equipment in some 100 non-profit residential buildings across Ontario. This will involve installing energy-efficient equipment such as compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-flow shower heads, and more efficient hot water heaters into older non-profit housing buildings. The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, the Cooperative Housing Association of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Energy will be consulted.

We believe that these initiatives will not only create immediate jobs in this time of recession but also improve the quality of life for many people.

# Try it on for size.

Try the **Nutri/System** Weight Loss Program that includes a variety of delicious meals and snacks, nutritional and behavioral counseling, light activity and weight maintenance.



April M. Kipp  
April Kipp lost 72 lbs



## 3 weeks — only \$49.\*

OVER 1,800 CENTRES WORLDWIDE

**nutri/system**  
weight loss centres

Call Today For A **FREE** No-Obligation Consultation

**GEORGETOWN ORANGEVILLE**

GEORGETOWN MARKET PLACE  
290 GUELPH STREET

47 BROADWAY

**873-1900**

**942-3500**

\*Excludes Nutri/System food and initial valuation which are additional cost. Participation centres only. New clients only.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"