



A giant singing dog dressed in overalls, a big cat with a pink hat, and a life size teddy bear took to the John Elliott Theatre stage last week to entertain school children from all over Halton Hills. Known as the Funland Band, the three animals made sure everyone in the audience got into their act with singing, clapping and acting out the lyrics of the songs.

### March Break

Set sail for the South Seas and a week of fun and adventure at the Acton and Georgetown libraries during March break. Crafts, contests and a movie will help entertain you during your holiday. Pick

up our brochure at the libraries. Also use your imagination and whatever you have at home to create a tropical fish for a library contest. For more info, pick up your entry at the library.



## Hornby Minor Softball Club 1989 Summer Registration

Saturday, March 11

1.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m. (only)

Hornby Community Hall

(Steeles Avenue West of Trafalgar Road)

Softball For Boys & Girls

Ages 6 to 18 (Birth Certificate Please)

Limited Number of Players Per Team



# The government is us!

Politicians who have been around Parliament Hill for a while tell me it's easy to start thinking the only important events in the country are the ones that happen here.

As a rookie MP, I don't want to believe that Politics isn't just what goes on here—politics is people.

The other night in Burlington that point was hammered home clearly.

I was having my first "Town Hall" meeting at the Brant Hills Centre, and the people there were doing a lot of talking about taxation, government spending, the deficit and the country's mounting debt. Towards the end of the session a man was on his feet complaining about the feds not spending enough on education.

His point was that local school boards are strapped for bucks because Queen's Park has not kept pace with its grants—and that's because Ottawa has put a lid on increased transfer payments to the provinces.

"What's the government going to do about that?" he shot at me.

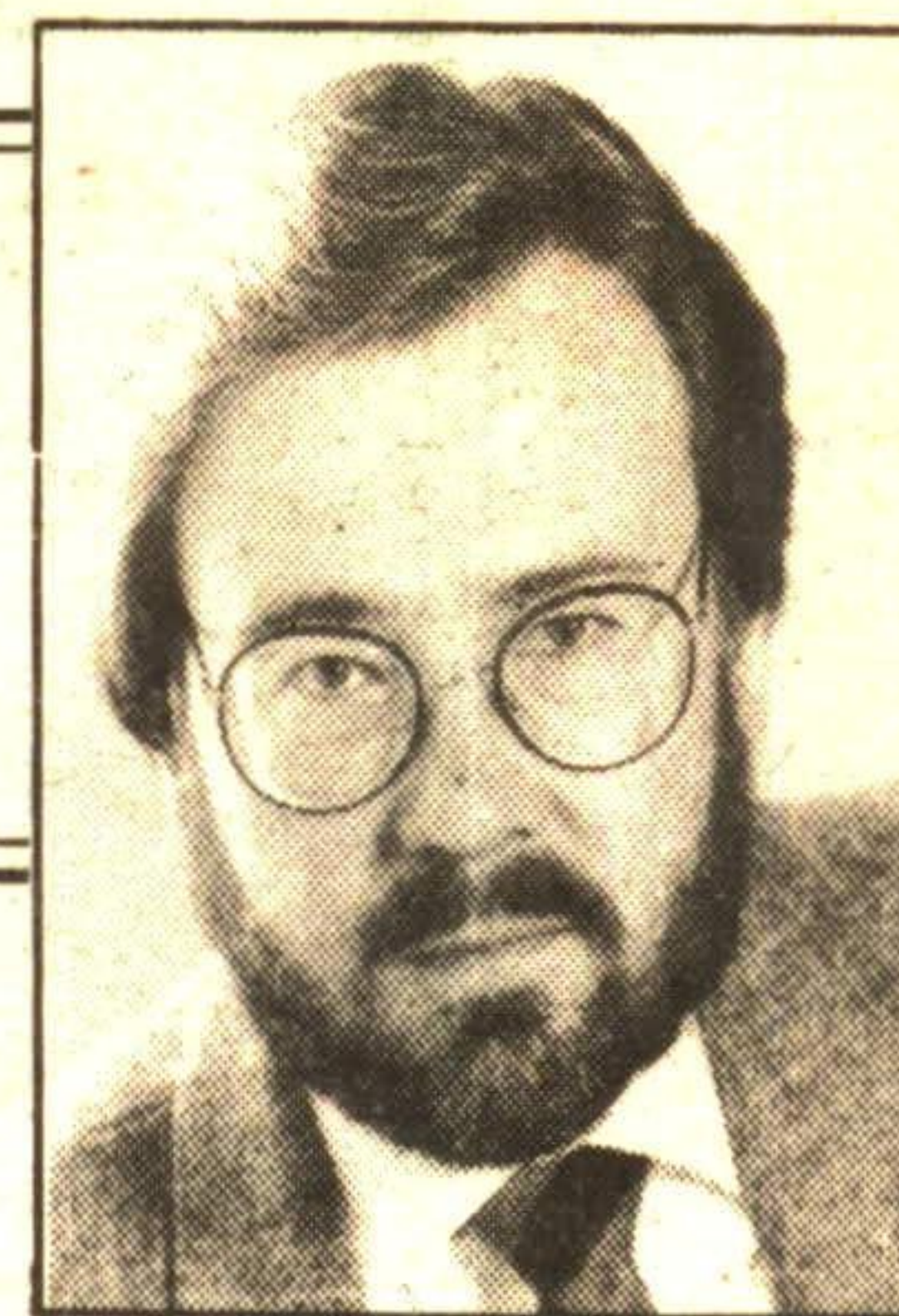
Before I had a chance to answer, somebody in front of him turned around and said: "The government is us."

It was an eloquent statement. Four words that put everything in perspective.

The government is us, because we fund it, ask it to do things and elect members of the community to guide it. And that's why politics is really in the community where we live. Ottawa doesn't have the corner on power.

Over the past month I've had a number of these meetings. Together with a spate of speeches and an endless stream of community events, I've come into contact with an amazing number of people. And, almost everywhere, it seems the big talk is about what the government is going to do next about the country's economic plight.

By GARTH TURNER  
MP for Halton-Peel



The cabinet shuffle gave a good clue: Senior types like Mike Wilson and Don Mazankowski were left in their places, while Mulroney formalized a small committee which will have life-and-death power over all federal spending.

This town is abuzz right now with rumors of deep spending cuts by the government; and a lot of civil servants are afraid the restraint will touch their lives. The finance minister probably won't have a new budget until some time in April, so there's a lot of suspense yet to come.

Royal Bank boss Allan Taylor seemed to strike a real chord two weeks ago when he came out swinging at the way governments in this country have allowed a mountain of debt (about \$325 billion right now) to build up. Just paying the interest on that debt costs us about \$29 billion a year. If that doesn't impress you, then consider that during the five minutes you need to read this piece, Canada will have a sunk another \$250,000 in debt.

Taylor said this is insanity and Taylor's right.

I have not always agreed with the big banks, but the Royal has done us all a service by publishing an analysis, called "Debt and Deficits in Canada." It's something that should be required reading for all politicians.

In fact, a lot of what I read in it, I heard from the floor of our town hall meetings, in Burlington, Bolton and Georgetown. Unless I heard wrongly, people were telling me—

as their Member of Parliament—that the time's clearly come to be critical of universal social payments; to cut out every ounce of government waste; to police those who are abusing the system; and to be ruthless in regaining control of Canada's finances.

We are now spending 30 per cent more than we gather in taxes. Every year we borrow billions, and as we do that, the accumulated debt grows.

The money we borrow is called the deficit, and it amounts to deferred taxation. Somebody, sometime, will have to pay it all back to the banks and bondholders and foreigners we borrowed it from. Most likely, it will be our children and grandchildren, not ourselves, who pay. And, in that way, we are doing something terribly wrong.

We are transferring wealth from future generations to our own. We are clearly wanting a better today at the expense of many tomorrows.

The Royal's Taylor says the only way to back out of this mess is to cut government expenditures. Raising more in taxes, he says, would not be productive.

But how much can be cut? And where do you start chopping? Will Canadians understand what's going on, and will they support it?

As Mike Wilson thinks about this first, crucial budget, those questions have to be going through his mind. The national debt is growing by \$100 billion every 40 months. The government needs a constant fix of more borrowed cash—but that's helping to jump interest rates and make mortgages more expensive.

If this continues, we'll see higher inflation, a much lower dollar and pain for middle class folks.

So, the search is on for solutions. For Wilson, it's finding the balancing act between cuts and sustaining economic growth. At our public meetings, it was a balance between those who need a government safety net, and those who say we can't afford it.

I think this is an important time to be in Ottawa.

The decisions are big, and they're hard. But I'm back here with the message I was told to deliver by the people in north Burlington and across the rest of my riding.

"Fix it," you said. "The government is us."



Garth Turner meets with one of his constituents at a recent meeting.

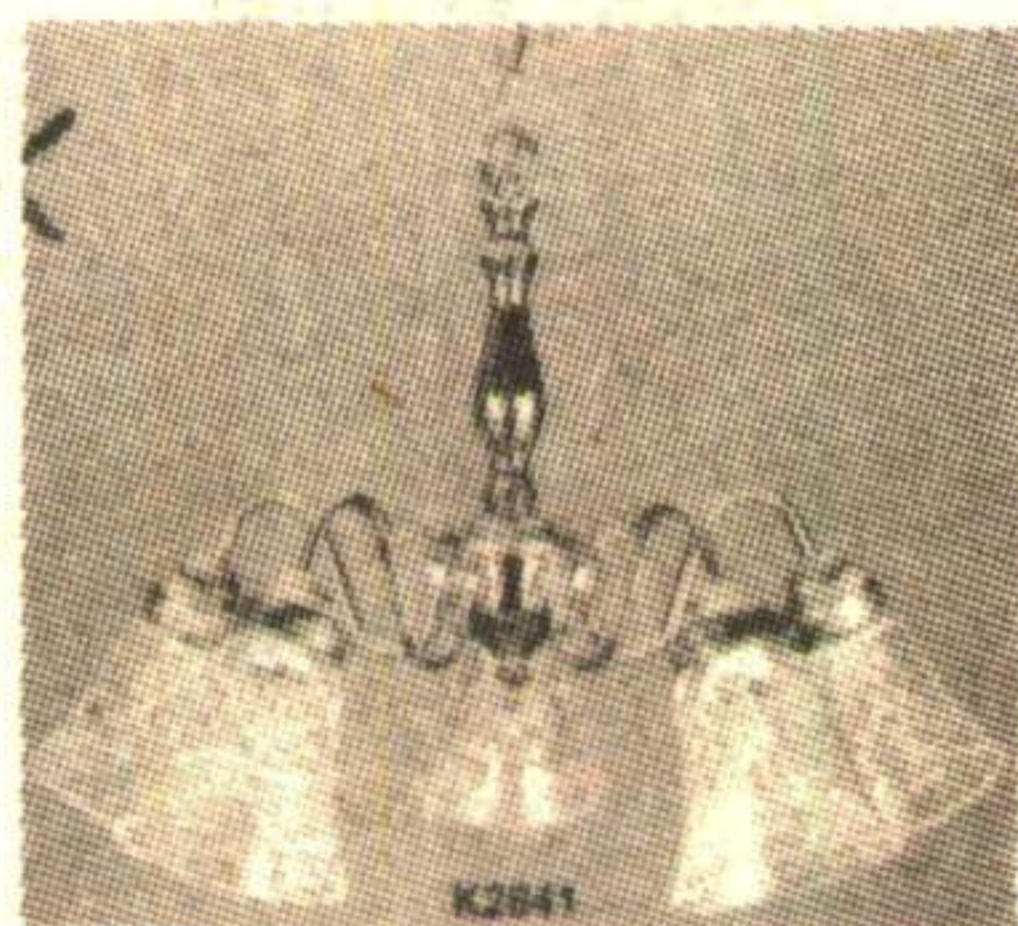


## Gerrie Electric

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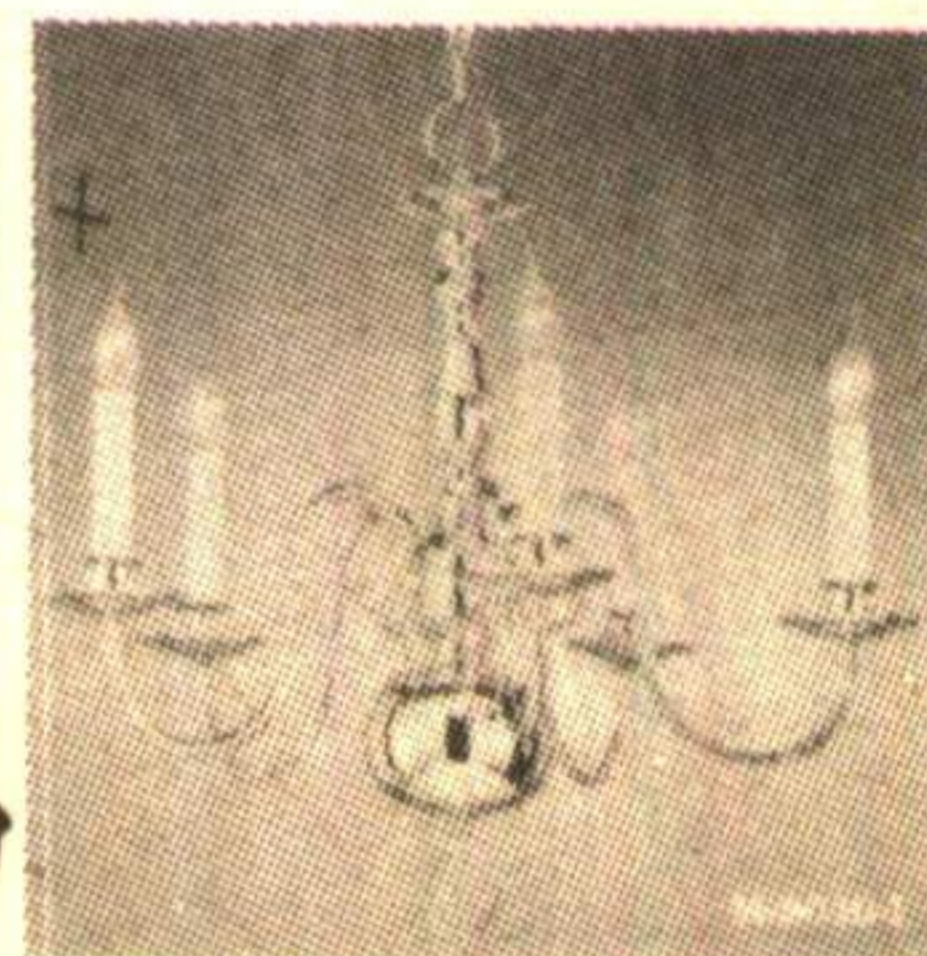
### Renovation Sale

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Sale Begins  
March 1/87

317 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown

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### ACTON SOCCER CLUB REGISTRATION

Thursday March 09th  
6-9 p.m.  
Acton Arena

Mini-squirt	\$35.00
Single Registration	\$45.00
Ladies	\$45.00
Double Registration (2 per family)	\$70.00
Family (3 or more)	\$90.00

For more information  
call 853-3866



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