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Halton Hills

WEEKEND

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Marilyn and Gerry Gale of Georgetown worry about their son Tom, who is a vehicle mechanic in the Persian Gulf. They stand by a yellow ribbon on a tree in their front yard, hoping their son will return.

JANET BAINE/Halton Hills Weekend

CANADA AT WAR

Georgetown family fears for son's life

At press time, the U.S.-led United Nations coalition was bombing Baghdad, Canada assumed an offensive role in the Persian Gulf, and protest marchers held vigils throughout the country. But here in Halton Hills, the Gale family of Georgetown had only one thing on their minds — the safety of their son Tom, serving in the Gulf since August.

Weekend reporter Janet Baine spoke to Marilyn and Gerry Gale before and after war was declared.

"We're always — everytime the phone rings — we're hoping it is him. At least then we'd know he's alright," mother Marilyn said Thursday.

The Sims Gate mother was quiet on the phone as discussed the war.

"We're not happy," Marilyn said. "That's all I can say. We're not happy. Everyone is praying, but I guess it's just a wait-and-see situation."

Tom Gale, 31, is serving as a army vehicle mechanic on Bahrain, a small island off the coast of Saudi Arabia where British Tornado jets fly from. He's married and has three children, all waiting for him in Vancouver.

Marilyn last saw her son at the Toronto airport when he was changing flights to go to the Persian Gulf.

"He had his body bag with him, with his name and number on it. I don't think there's anything worse for a mother or a wife to see than that." She doesn't remember much of those last few minutes with her son — except that she couldn't say much.

The Gales are familiar with the rigors of military life though: dad Gerry fought in the Korean War 40 years ago. That was the last time Canada was at war. Gerry's father and three uncles fought in World War II. Two other sons have completed military services and a daughter is stationed with her husband in Germany. Her husband, however, is less than a year away from the end of his military career, so it's unlikely he will be sent to the Gulf.

The Gales, however, add that it's still hard to hear the news that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

MP Turner approves Canada's new offensive role

MP Garth Turner is sticking to the party line on the issue of Canada's involvement in the Gulf Crisis.

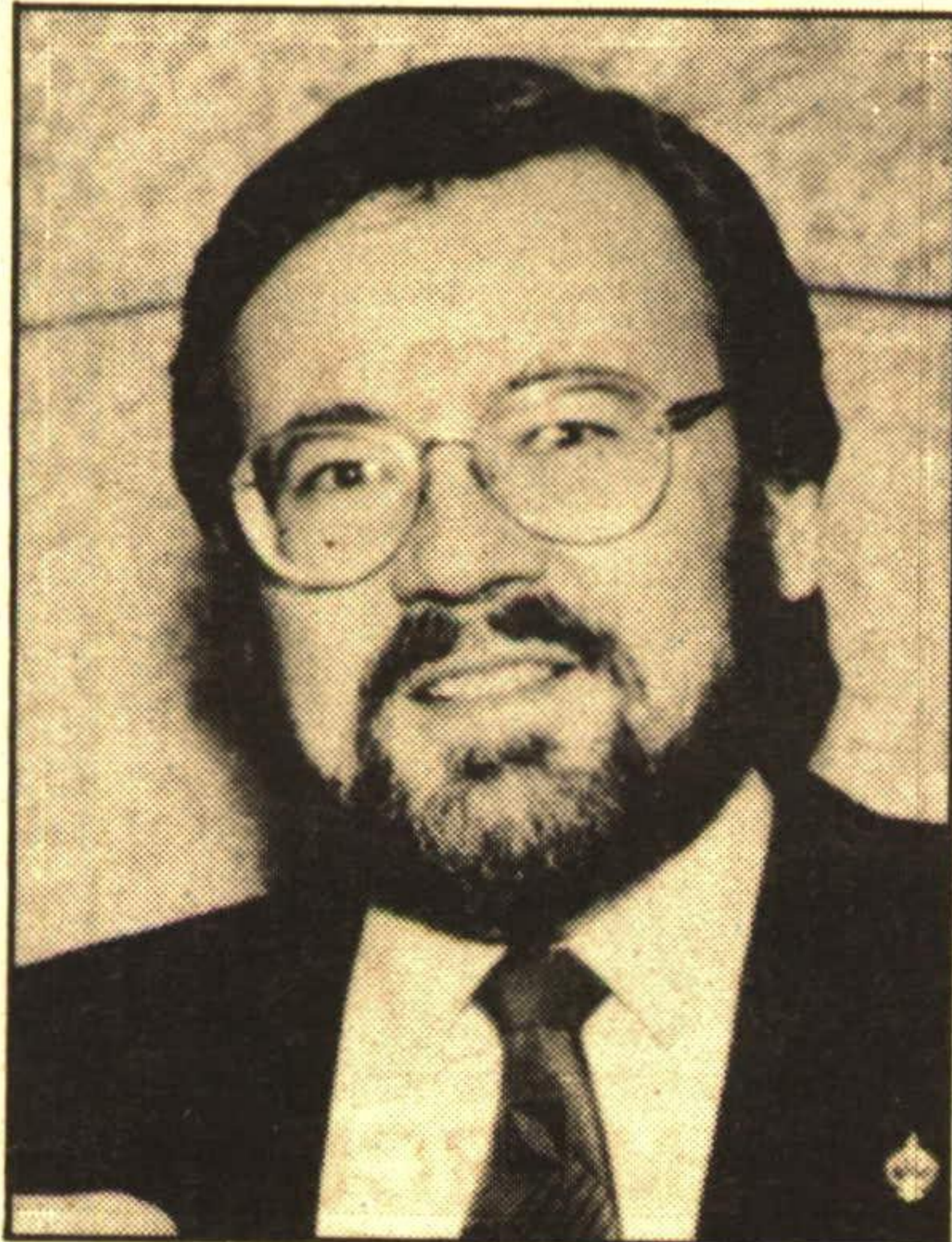
He supports the Cabinet decision to allow the Canadian military to take an offensive role in the crisis.

"I think it is important that we let the military do what it thinks is appropriate. The Canadian military asked cabinet if they could play a role in the attacks," he said.

CAF spokesmen announced Thursday Canadian CF-18s could accompany other allied planes on their mission, to protect them. They may also continue their role of protecting Canadian and other Allied ships.

Prior to making his decision on Canada's involvement in the war, Turner heard from 12 constituents on the matter: nine were opposed to

having Canadian troops involved in a war, and three supported the move.



MP GARTH TURNER

"That's not necessarily reflective of opinion as a whole. We never get calls from people who are happy about what we're doing," he said.

Until he attended a caucus meeting on Canada's involvement, Turner's mind wasn't yet made up. But Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and other politicians made persuasive arguments, he said.

"I feel satisfied that the right decision for Canada to take is to be part of the 30 nation force," he said.

Turner draws a parallel between Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler, saying we have to react now.

"Nobody stood up to Hitler until it was too late," he said. He criticized Hussein for invading Kuwait and ravaging the country.

"I only hope that the Allied Nation strike is effective and decisive and that the war is short," Turner said.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Councillor takes issue with condoms in high schools. Page 3.

Daycares have everything, but kids. Page 8.



Jack
TANNER'S
TABLE

Sunday Brunch

The Tradition Continues

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday. The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday.

Traditional favorites include our carving station and

the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station. Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from Dufflets. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate.

The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table.

Reservations Recommended 853-3440