## A kinder, gentler Garth discusses the nation's woes

By JANET BAINE

Once considered a maverick politician, Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner has mellowed.

At a "town hall" meeting in Georgetown Tuesday, Turner threw his full support behind his government's 28 proposed changes to the Canadian constitution.

"I'm less confrontational that I used to be," he said after the meeting. "I'm more experienced as a politician and know what we can do and what we can't. You get more by working with, than working against. Yelling at people doesn't get results. Over the last three years I've got some of the things I was fighting for," he said.

The additional revenue from the GST is going to decrease the deficit, just as he wanted. Spending cuts have been instituted, as he asked. And the right to own property is among the proposed changes which the government recently released.

"Politics involves compromise and finding the middle ground," he and everything from all sides," Turner said.

It's difficult for the government to get its message out, because when proposals are announced, the major media give equal time to all three party leaders, he said. Turner himself left his job as a political columnist at the Toronto Sun to become MP.

Turner is sending a flyer to households, in which he explains the 28 proposed changes. He said they fall into four areas, including giving people more rights, like natives and property owners; reforming parliament and the senate; streamlining the government by eliminating duplication of programs at a federal and provincial level; and giving Ottawa the power to force provincial governments to bring their economic policies in line with the federal policies.

"If I have any one great overriding fear, it's that it's too much to digest and people may, for one or out everything," he said.

The question of whether Quebec is a "distinct society" and what that really means was discussed extensively by people attending the meeting, but without any agree-

About 20 people attended the

meeting, far less than have attended previous "town hall" meetings.

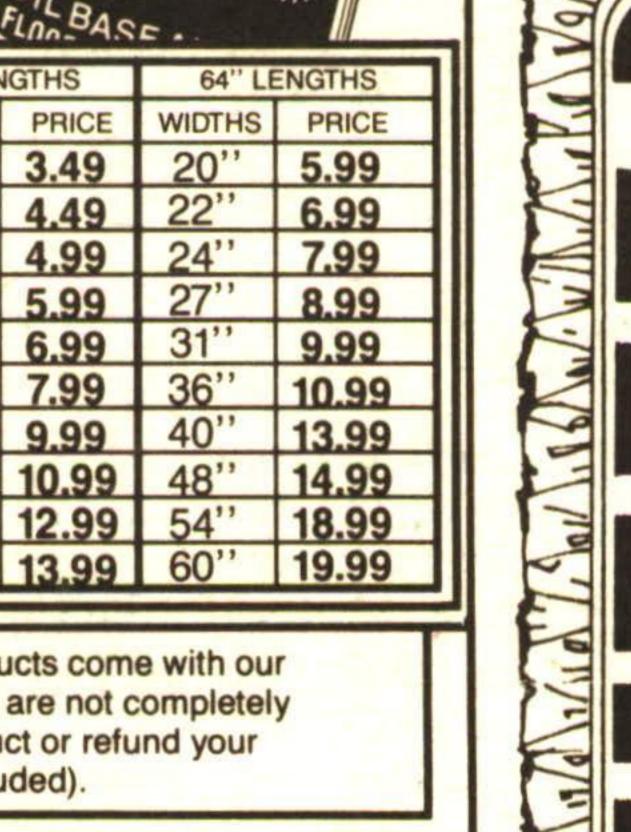
"Maybe people are tired of talking about the constitution," Turner said, to explain the turn-out. "Maybe it's just that we're not close to an election and people can afford to ignore politics for a while."







A dress rehearsal was held Wednesday in preparation for Halton Hills Talent Night, coordinated by volunteers Brenda Sisnet and Lois Fraser. Big sister Katie Fraser, a Grade 3 student at Limehouse sang "A Part of My World" from The Little Mermaid. Little sister, Joanna, 3, who performed with the Limehouse "Sixth Liners" tried to hog the BARB STEPHENS Halton Hills Weekend



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