

Turner to campaign on issues

By Dianne Cornish

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said Thursday he cannot think of a better way to bring the concerns of Halton-Peel residents to the forefront than by entering Canada's Progressive Conservative leadership race.

Speaking from his Ottawa office during a telephone interview, Turner said he wants the opportunity to speak about ideas and issues that are important to Canadians. That's one of the major reasons why he announced his candidacy for the leadership at a Wednesday morning press conference in Ottawa.

Turner said he actually made his decision to enter the leadership race this past weekend. "I was struck by the refusal of three cabinet ministers (Barbara McDougall, Perrin Beatty and Bernard Valcourt) to enter the race," he said. "I wanted to send a clear signal that there are some of us who very much want to be in the race,"



Garth Turner

he added.

Turner said offers of financial and moral support from "a few hundred" people over the past two weeks also encouraged him to announce his candidacy.

Asked about his chances of winning and about media and poll claims that predict Defence Minister Kim Campbell will likely win the leadership bid if she chooses to run, Turner remarked, "I don't much care what the polls say, ...I don't much care what the media pundits say. I've entered this race to win and to talk about ideas which are really more important than winning."

"I've attended 65 town hall

meetings in Halton-Peel. People don't want to talk about popularity contests; they want to talk about cutting taxes, reducing the national debt and getting this country working," he added.

Deficit elimination, parliamentary reform, restoration of property rights and a fairer tax system for the middle class will figure prominently in his campaign, Turner pledged. He also promised to run a deficit-free leadership campaign. "If the campaign runs out of gas, we'll just stop and raise some more money and go on from there."

Turner was scheduled to meet with his team of volunteer campaign workers this morning at North Halton Golf and Country Club, in Georgetown. Details of his campaign will be unveiled within the next three weeks.

Two weeks ago, a Buffalo-based psychic appearing in a Psychic Fair in Burlington predicted Turner is the favored contender for the top job in the federal PC Party. Her prediction was published March 8 in a Burlington newspaper.

Asked if the prediction influenced his decision to run, Turner replied, "It had no bearing at all, although I'll take my support wherever I can get it."

Blue box funds

Noel Duignan, MPP Halton North, presented a cheque for \$939,524 to the Regional Municipality of Halton on behalf of Ontario's Minister of Environment and Energy, Bud Wildman.

The first \$841,129 is destined for Halton's outstandingly successful Blue Box program.

The remaining \$98,395 represents the second payment toward a magazine recycling demonstration project. All monies were provided under the ministry's Municipal Recycling Support Program.

"I am delighted to present this cheque to the Regional Municipality of Halton for its pioneering blue Box ventures," Mr. Duignan said. "Halton's Blue Box program is an inspiration to all municipalities in Ontario. Today, it collects a full 15 per cent of the 420,000 tonnes recycled by the province. With the strong dedication and initiative shown by municipalities like Halton, our government is confident that by the year 2000 we will have reduced the waste entering our local landfill sites by at least 50 per cent."

The first payment of \$841,129 is part of a \$1,097,222 grant for 1992-93 for Halton's regular Blue Box program. The funds will be used to cover operating costs. The second payment of \$98,395 is part of a \$138,400 grant for the magazine recycling demonstration project.

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