

Editorial

Garth why

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner has thrown his celebrated cowboy boots into the ring in challenging for the leadership of the federal Progressive Conservative party.

This begs the question, why?

As a neophyte politician (first elected in 1988 with no previous experience in the political arena) Mr. Turner is still getting his boots wet.

He was in Georgetown recently at Oxbow Books, signing copies of his tome 'Garth, Just What the Hell is Going on in Ottawa' and in the presence of a Halton Hills This Week reporter was overheard commenting, "I've never considered myself a career politician. I'll be running in the upcoming election, but after that, who knows?"

The only position of significance Mr. Turner has held in his time of office, was that of chairman of the standing committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

He subsequently resigned from this prestigious and potentially influential position "...to devote more time to middle-class issues" according to a press release from his Ottawa office.

Halton Hills This Week contacted this same office and requested a biography on Mr. Turner in order to better inform Halton Hills residents on the man who would be prime minister.

We received a single page, five paragraph fax transmission. Is that all there is?

He says his reason for running for the leadership of the federal PCs is to bring certain issues - reform of parliament, better fiscal management and property rights - to his party's attention and feels a national leadership convention, with him as a contender, is the most appropriate forum.

Excuse us for being a bit naive, but if his PC caucus colleagues have been turning a deaf ear to Mr. Turner's pleadings for five years, why should they listen to him now?

Months ago, Mr. Turner -in one of his newspaper columns designed to inform his constituents on his activities - decried the federal deficit and vowed to erect a deficit clock (much like the doomsday clock) to make the public and politicians alike aware of our increasingly crushing national debt.

Our national debt has grown even larger, yet there has been nary a whisper from Mr. Turner about his much-ballyhooed deficit clock for quite some time.

Mr. Turner would be better advised to take his concerns to the federal PC leadership convention as a concerned and determined MP.

This route would also be less costly for all concerned.

Acton's top citizen sought

The Acton Lions Club will be hosting its annual Citizen of the Year banquet April 30, 6:30 p.m. at the Acton Legion.

To nominate an individual or organization, send a short resume to: Acton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 28, Acton, Ontario

L7J 2M2. Nominations will be accepted until March 30.

The dinner will be attended by numerous dignitaries, and the general public is welcome to attend. To order tickets, contact Dave Pyke at 853-4534.

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual

errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:

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Halton Hills This Week
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Georgetown, ON
L7G 4B1

Community deserves better

To the Editor:

I am writing to comment on the recent attack on local councillors by delegations to Town Council on Monday, March 8, 1993. The impression left on readers of the various news reports leads one to believe that the general public are not happy with the conduct of our councillors. I, for one, do not think this so.

NEC concerns are of local interest

To the Editor:

My greetings, felicitations, salutations. After reading about the last two Halton Hills council meetings, I must say that I am disquieted with the personal attacks on Acton Regional Councillor, Rick Bonnette, and Georgetown Councillor, Pam Johnston, by a former mayoralty candidate Rob Barlow, P.O.W.E.R. President, Barbara Halsall and Jean Hilborn regarding their position on the NEC issue.

Ask anyone today and they will tell you there is too much government. All that Bonnette and Johnston are trying to do is try to trim a three million dollar bureaucracy and have decisions made by

Frustrated home-owner

To the Editor:

With respect to the article published in Wed., March 17 edition of your newspaper regarding the close scrutiny of further Law developments in the Halton Hills area. Being a Kingsmill-on-the-Credit resident, I feel I must make a few statements.

The meeting that took place last year between Law Development and Kingsmill residents (which I co-chaired) only served to further frustrate the home-owners. During the meeting I asked Larry Law directly if home-owners would receive any compensation for the numerous design changes. The answer was just as direct, "No". At this point many people walked out. Also may I state that not everyone that overpaid for the extra parking spot received a refund, myself being one who did not.

I really do think these issues should have been settled without having to use unpleasant tactics, but my wife and I have been asking for nearly a year now for some positive compensatory action from Law Development.

Steve Williams,
Georgetown

On Feb. 15, Town Council voted that it "is not in favor of a tax increase" to cover costs of the transfer of development controls to Halton Region from the Niagara Escarpment Commission. On Feb. 24 Regional Council voted on a motion to support the transfer of Escarpment control to the Region while charging application fees for development applications within

the N.E.C. area, in order to avoid general tax increases. Mr. Bonnette's vote supporting both motions is entirely consistent!

The bitter attacks by delegations from members of POWER and other interest groups on the local council do not serve the community well. It is my understanding that POWER was created to fight the proposed dump south of Acton. POWER received much public support and money to fight the dump including my own. Now, however, Ms. Halsall (President) and Mr. Barlow (Vice-President) show up as delegations to council criticizing and attacking Council on an issue such as delegation of control of the Niagara Escarpment. Their personal attacks divide the community and hurt our community's ability to take a united stand against the dump.

With news of the court ruling on Ontario Hydro's case, the RSI proposal is on track again. Let's get together as a community. Let's fight the RSI proposal.

John Rittenhouse Mowat,
Acton

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Dan Dolliver,
Acton

Distress Centre serves a purpose

By Okshana Buhel

Judy Rasenen has nothing but praise for her volunteers.

Rasenen is the director of the North Halton Distress and Information Centre, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this November.

The volunteers who work at the centre dedicate four hours a week to help others.

They listen to anyone who has a problem, or who just wants to talk. A caller needing further guidance will be referred to an agency. Rasenen explains that the volunteers are "trained to listen actively" but have no counseling experience. Another reason volunteers do not give direct advice, explains Rasenen, is that callers who make their own decisions are more likely to continue getting help. "One thing we try to prevent is people becoming dependent on us," she said. "They have to make up their own minds."

One of the most frequent reasons people call the centre is because they are concerned about employment and finances. These worries often result in other problems. Sexual and physical abuse are occurring more frequently, as are suicide threats. "Our volun-

teers are well-trained and very dedicated," says Rasenen. "They do the best they can."

The location of the centre is not publicized. Volunteers are known only on a first name basis. Callers also identify themselves only by their first name. Rasenen explains this anonymity is beneficial for everyone. Callers can discuss their problems without worrying they might be recognized, and volunteers can keep a division between their work and their home life.

The only gratitude the volunteers usually receive is congratulations from fellow workers after an especially challenging phone call. Occasionally, a caller will call back to thank a volunteer, or to update their situation. "For the most part," say Rasenen, "they (the volunteers) just do it and they do it quietly."

The Distress and Information Centre also provides information about anything ranging from the length of time it takes to cook a steak to the number of churches there are in the town.

The centre is currently accepting applications for new volunteers. For an application form, or for further information about the centre, please call 877-1211.

For Pete's Sake

... ALL RIGHT, NOW WHO CAN TELL ME WHO SUCCEEDED WILLIAM OF ORANGE?



PETER? OH! UH... CHARLES?



YES, CHARLES. WHICH ONE, THOUGH?



CHARLES OF KIWI??

THESE EIGHT O'CLOCK CLASSES WILL BE THE DEATH OF ME...



by Roe

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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