

Turner to run for top job?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said Canadian Press reports naming him as the first declared candidate in the race for leadership of the Progressive Conservative party are "a little exaggerated."

However, Turner, 43, said he is seriously considering entering the race.

"I'm interesting in running but I don't know if I can do it," Turner said in a telephone interview Friday.

"It's going to take a lot of resources and I don't have a big organization or bankroll, but if the support is there, then I want to run for the leadership."

Turner said he would enter the race to give people more choice than a collection of Cabinet ministers and to push for reform.

"I think that MPs should be more independent and more involved in the decision-making process. That's the way to attack the frustration and cynicism people have about politicians," Turner said.

Turner said it will take a couple of weeks to see if he has the resources to mount a leadership campaign. He estimates the front runners will spend \$2 million each in their bids for the Prime Minister's job.

"It's a bit sad that we can't have leadership based on ideas instead of bank accounts. I'd like to see if I can run a smart, small, intelligent campaign that doesn't cost a lot of money but gets the dialogue going on how we get better politics in Canada," Turner said.

Turner said if he doesn't come up with enough money and support to stage a full-blown leadership campaign he may enter the race just to make sure it does not turn into a popularity contest.

Development job saved

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Expected development pressures in Acton convinced Halton Hills politicians to not cut \$22,000 from the proposed operating budget for

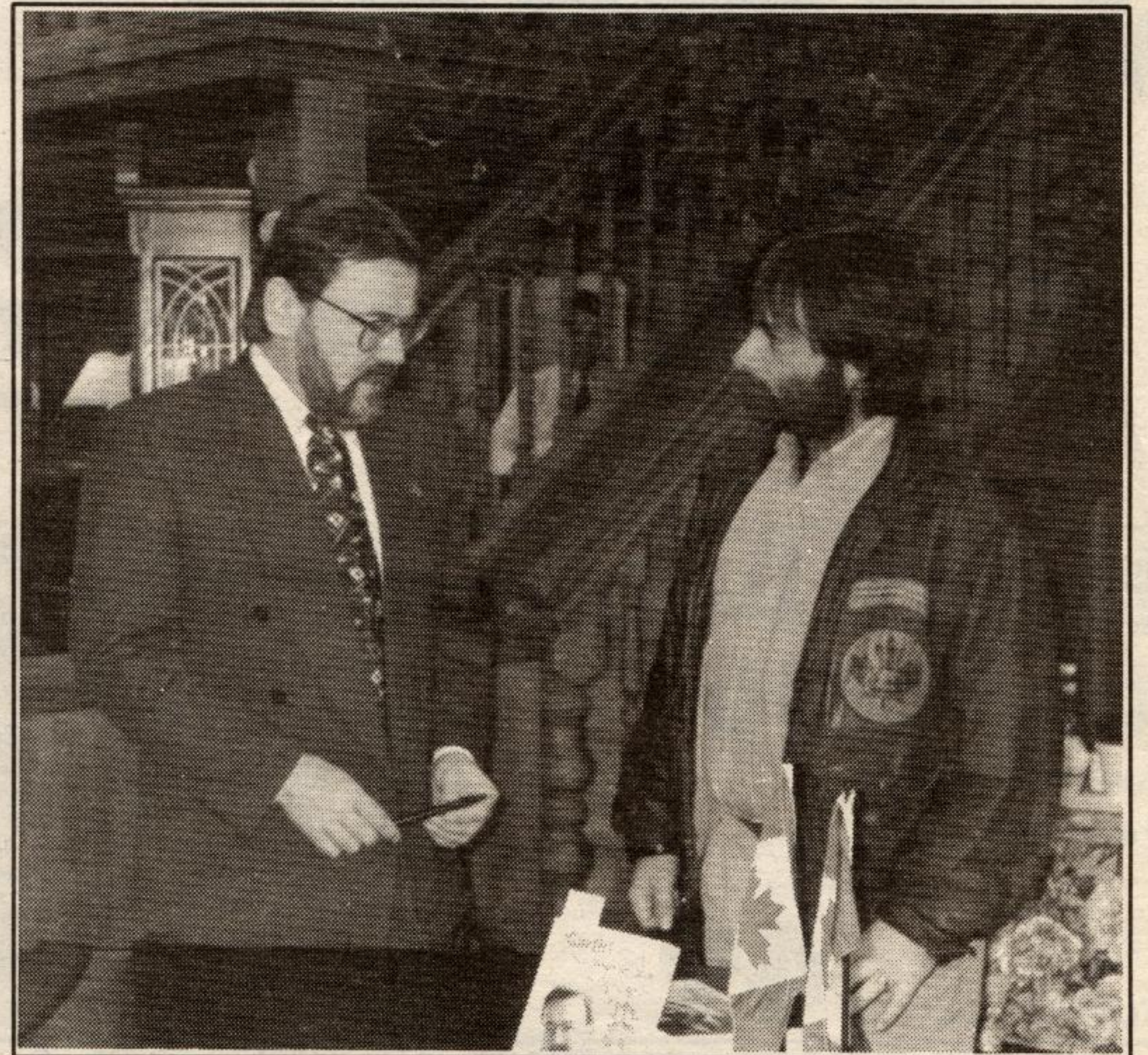
a new development co-ordinator.

Georgetown Councillor Ron Chatten suggested that in a tight budget year the six-month contract position should not be filled, but Acton Councillor Norm Elliott said he had grave concerns about not hiring someone to handle development applications.

"At no other time have development pressures been so great. We have an Ontario Municipal Board hearing proceeding on the Acton development area and we have a lot of development applications. In the next six to eight months I expect our staff will be inundated with requests from developers to expedite plans," Elliott argued.

Elliott also noted that there is a large amount of development revenue waiting to be collected by the Town in the way of building permits and development levies and that the Town should do all it can to help the planning process move quickly and smoothly.

Council agreed to not cut the position, but it will not be filled until need for the job is justified in an upcoming review of engineering department operations.



PRIME MINISTER MATERIAL? Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner (left) took time from his deliberations over entering the PC leadership race to sign a copies of his new book on Sunday at the olde Hide House. Shown with Turner is Hide House president Steve Dawkins. (Lori Frechette photo)

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Cuts in services or staff

Continued from Page 1

also be asked to take \$28,000 from an unallocated reserve fund to reduce the tax levy portion of the budget

As the budget now stands Acton residents with an average assessment of \$5,700 would pay \$620 in Town taxes this year, \$13.62 more than last year.

Rural Acton residents, who do not pay for street lights or garbage pick-up, would pay \$452 or \$3.36 more than last year.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott suggested that everyone remember that \$3.36 figure.

"I appreciate the rhetoric about being fiscally responsible but what we are trying to eliminate is \$3.36 from the tax bill. So, let's not get carried away with this pie in the

sky stuff about being fiscally responsible."

Elliott also argued that a zero per cent budget increase just means that they are not keeping up with inflation and that will make it more difficult in the future to recover from the recession.

Town treasurer Ray King says any further cuts will mean either cuts in services or staff.

"What staff or what type of services are not for me to say but obviously you can't cut \$40,000 out without cutting some level of service," King said.

Staff will report back on the additional cuts at a special budget meeting Monday before the Council meeting.

THE ACTON Tanner CARRIER OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to ... **BRENDAN McGRATH!**

Carrier of the Month for March is Brendan McGrath. Brendan is a Grade 8 student at St. Joseph's. He is not only an A plus student but an A plus carrier as well. He is always prompt with his deliveries and has not missed a customer yet. His collections are consistently handed in complete and on time.

Brendan holds down two paper routes and works very hard at both. The worst part of his job is climbing through the deep snow in winter and getting soaking wet in the spring. He says the pay makes up for that though.

Brendan is saving most of his earnings for his university education. His goal in life is to become an Architectural Engineer. Recently however, he used some of his earnings to buy an electronic typewriter to help with his school projects.

Brendan is a great Star Trek fan and enjoys playing his Nintendo games. Bowling is also a favourite past-time.

Congratulations on being Carrier of the Month, Brendan!

For being chosen Carrier of the Month, Brendan will receive a delicious pizza from Andy's Restaurant, where quality and tradition make the difference! Make your next meeting a success at Andy's (853-0300).