

Rural residents tell Turner they want some tax relief

By Melanie Cummings
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton MP Garth Turner is seeking input from taxpayers on how better to ease their burden.

The first of four pre-budget public consultations kicked off Tuesday night in Campbellville, where a small group of 15 residents provided feedback on tax relief from capital gains to the GST.

Turner intends to generate an armload of ideas from 10,000 people nationwide through his Web site (www.garth.ca), his weekly newspaper column, upcoming radio interviews and three more scheduled public meetings to be held over the next week in the riding.

"This has never been done on a national scale before," said Turner.

He's expecting to submit a

report listing four to five recommendations to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in mid-March.

"It's important for Flaherty to understand what people want," said Turner.

The finance minister is expected to present his first budget in April.

The budget is expected to fulfill election promises such as a reduction in the seven per cent federal tax charged for goods and services, a \$1,200 child care payment to parents and a deferral in capital gains taxes on reinvested money.

Brookville resident Lorain Bruno wants the current federal cash surplus used to make good on the Conservatives election promises.

"A surplus indicates to me we're overtaxed. I seldom have a surplus of personal savings and if I do, it's maybe 10 per cent.

Your government should do the same," said Bruno.

Turner concurred. He said it'll be hard to keep the surplus intact with health care spending needed to reduce waiting times, necessary increases in military spending and promised tax cuts, as well as Conservative goal to pay down the national debt by \$3 billion per year.

He also agreed with Brenda Schrempf of Brookville who described the capital gains tax as a repressive and regressive tax.

"It penalizes the incentive to invest with its 50 per cent hit," said Schrempf. She wants the tax deferred and eventually eliminated.

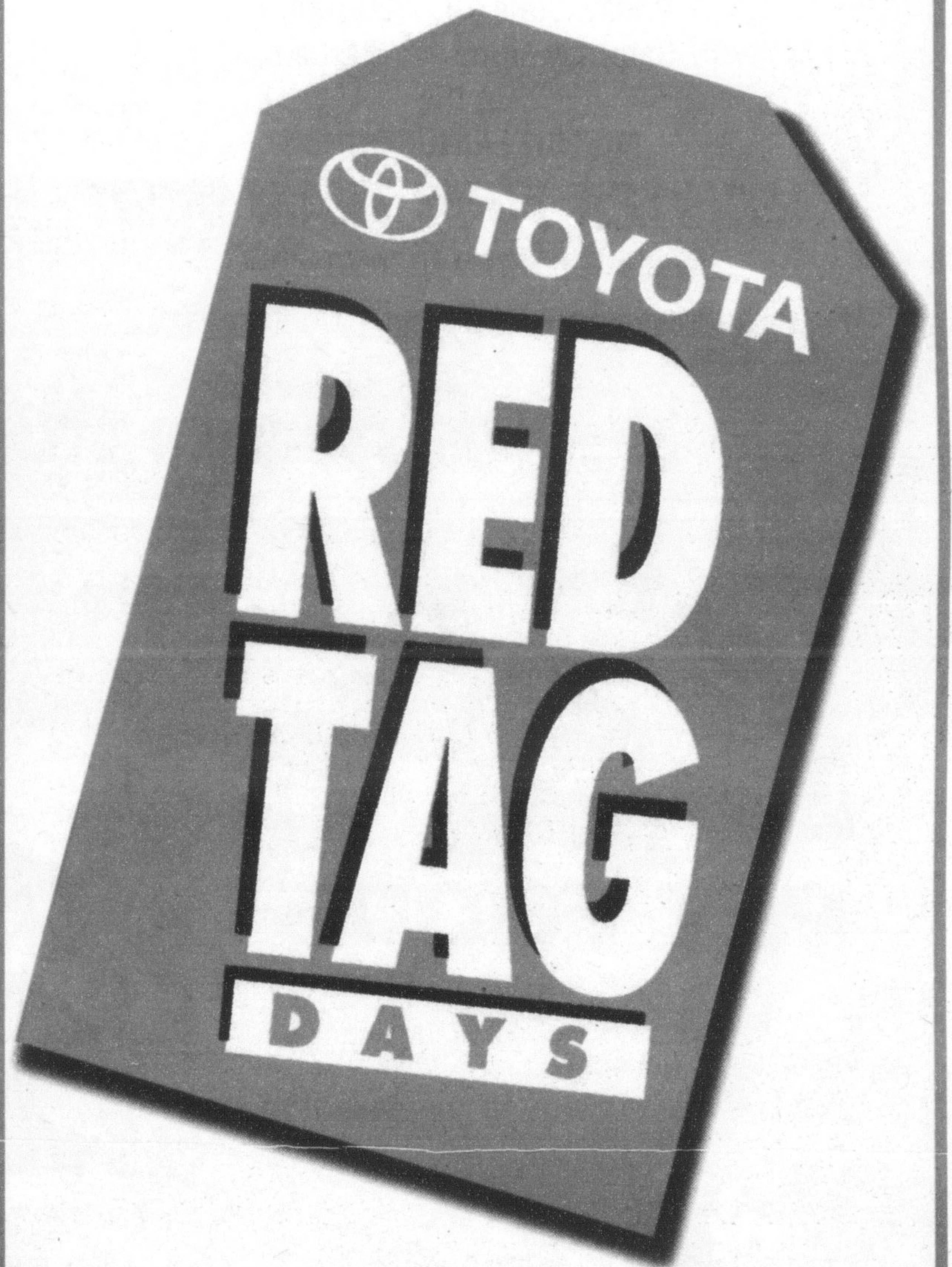
"I would advocate that tax be phased out," said Turner.

The Halton MP also wants to introduce a non-registered investment plan. He said most

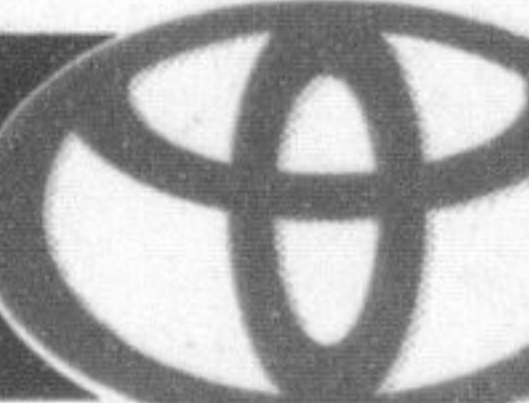
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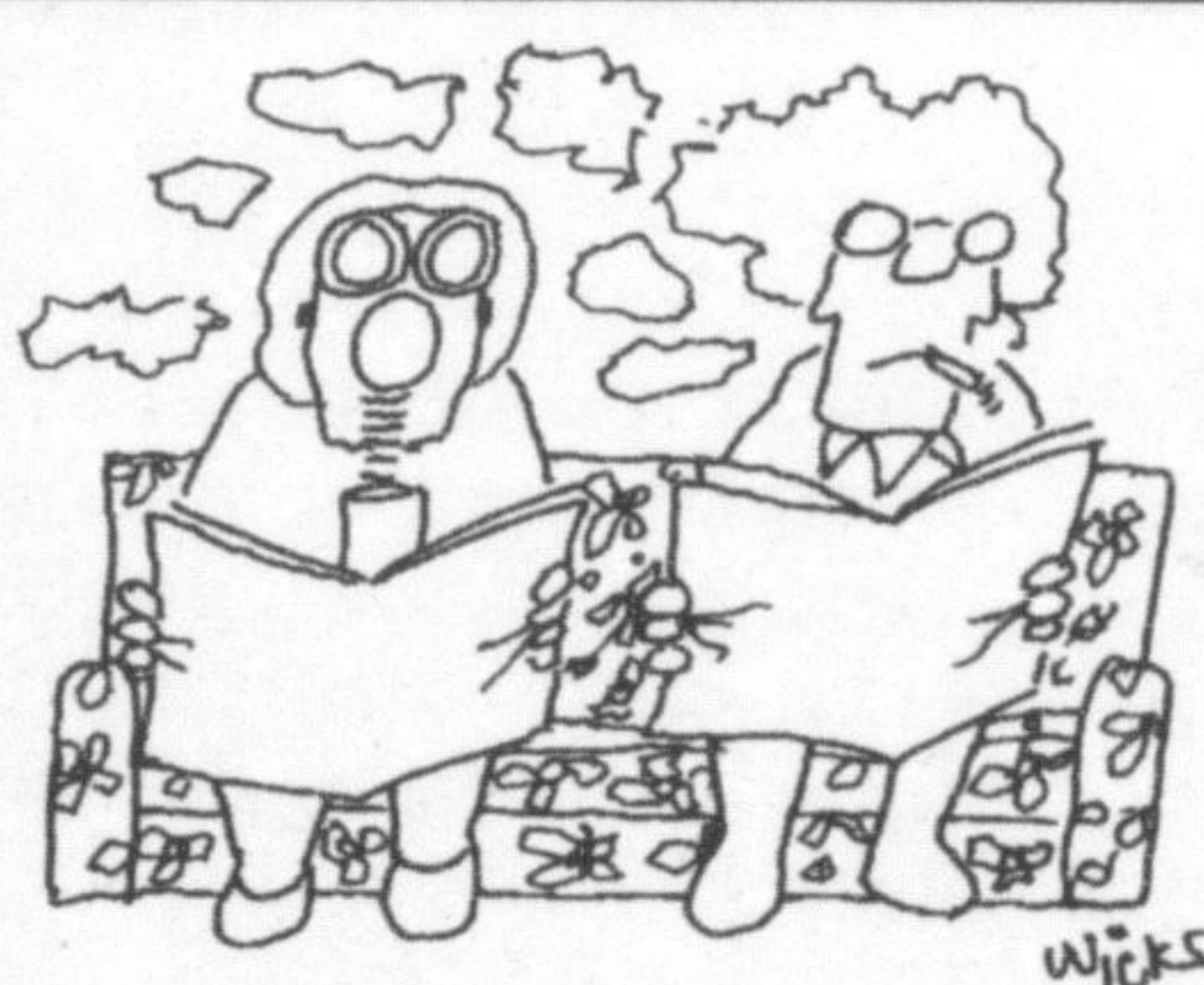
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