

Garth Turner survey lets you be finance minister

By NORM NELSON

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner wants to put the shoe on the other foot. He's asking his constituents to complete the next federal budget.

Hate the proposed new Goods and Services Tax (GST)? Then eliminate it. Upset with the federal government's decision to cut VIA services? Give VIA all the money you want.

Better watch it, though, or your deficit will be bigger than your New Year's Day headache.

Mr. Turner has prepared a brochure entitled "You be the finance minister." The idea sprang from a series of meetings he held in the riding over the past year, where the main topic of conversation was taxes and the deficit.

"People wanted to know where their money was going," he said, "so we thought we would provide something that explained it. After doing a lot of research on it, we decided not only to tell them where we spend

it, but (ask) if they think it's the right place to spend it."

Constituents are asked to send the completed brochure, free of charge, back to Mr. Turner's office.

The outspoken rookie MP found his latest idea welcomed by Finance Minister Michael Wilson, whose next budget will likely be tabled in February. "Mr. Wilson suggested to all government MPs that they should send out copies — that was a nice endorsement," he said. At least a couple of dozen Tory colleagues, he added, plan on sending it out.

It was delivered to about 25,000 households in Halton-Peel riding. He said results should be forthcoming in the next week or two.

The handout, he said, is a "compromise between too much and too little information." More detailed information, he added, is available through the office.

"At least it gives a breakdown of where all the money is going," he said. "It's not perfect."

"But someone may look at the National Defence budget and say, 'Holy Geez, we're spending \$705 million on troops in Europe.' Maybe with the changes going on in eastern Europe they'll think we don't need to spend that much money."

The budget is easily done. The first step is expenditures — government spending is broken down into 32 departments (such as Veterans Affairs, Indian Affairs and National Defence), containing 182 expenditures. For instance National Defence, which has a total budget of about \$11 billion, is broken down into various categories; maritime forces (about \$1.2 billion), land forces (about \$1.3 billion), air force (about \$2.2 billion), Canadian forces in Europe (about \$705 million) and administration costs (about \$2.3 billion).

The second step is revenue, which comes from a variety of sources, including the manufacturer's sales and excise tax which the

federal Tories want to replace with the controversial GST. Other sources include personal and corporate income tax and unemployment insurance.

The final step is to compare total expenditures with total revenue. If you balanced the budget or perhaps even came up with a surplus, then maybe you should run for politics with the aim of becoming finance minister.

Mr. Turner doesn't quite know what kinds of federal budgets his constituents will draft, but at riding meetings "foreign aid and multiculturalism are mentioned most often" for cuts.

Other targets include "defence spending and universality of social programs."

Commenting on the unique idea, Mr. Turner said, "we as MPs are allowed free mail-outs four times a year. I don't believe in some of the stuff that gets sent out — 64 pictures of a guy giving out cheques. I don't believe in giving out cheques."

1—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 10, 1990

Millside condo approved . . .

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begin within a month if the approval bylaw passed.

In asking for the land or cash dedication to the town, councillor Attenborough wanted nothing different from what major developers provide municipalities when they build industrial or residential subdivisions.

When municipalities work with those large-scale developers, they obtain up to five per cent of the total land or a cash equivalent as standard procedure, and often build a park on the property or plow the funds back into the general treasury.

Councillor Attenborough tried to hold up the bylaw pending a municipal staff report on the issue, and pushed to have the town also "go back and renegotiate" with the developer to secure cash in lieu of land, since the developer really doesn't have enough property to sever a piece for a park.

Town administrator Roy Main said Milton has no policy regarding cash or land dedications for highrise residential developments, and added that he was concerned about forcing Village Parc on the Pond to renegotiate "at the 11th hour."

Councillor Brad Clements took the same ap-

proach. A change in policy "is something we'd have to look at in the longer term. This particular (project) has been around a long time. It was approved in basics before I got on this council." The initial highrise approvals were granted in 1976, Mayor Krantz confirmed.

"What would be the equivalent cash in lieu or parkland?" asked councillor Colin Best. "I don't know," Mr. Main replied.

Mr. Attenborough's renegotiation bid failed when only Mr. Best supported holding up the bylaw. However, the councillor was not deterred. "I think we should negotiate something with this developer," he said after the meeting. "I don't see why they should be any different. It's time we stood up to these guys and got something out of them."

While Mr. Attenborough's motion failed, he perhaps nudged town staff in the direction he wants pursued.

A report will be prepared comparing Milton's policy, or more properly lack of it, with the measures of surrounding municipalities. It will come back to councillors for discussion and could end up pointing to a new source of revenue for Milton. Mr. Main said he believes Oakville, for example, gets either land or cash from highrise residential builders.

Man killed by train at CPR crossing near Court Street

A 24-year-old Mill Street man was killed instantly after being hit by a train last Thursday evening near the Canadian Pacific Railway crossing at Court Street North.

Halton regional police said the CPR train was travelling westbound through Milton, just after 9 p.m., when the engineer, at the Main Street East crossing, noticed a reflective material about a quarter of a mile ahead. The engineer sounded the whistle and bell, and applied the emergency brakes.

Geoffrey Leonard Vanderholt of 11 Mill St. was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police have ruled out foul play and are awaiting the results of an autopsy.

Funeral services for the E. C. Drury graduate were held Monday.

Faulty connection . . .

Gas fume report closes Shell pumps again

Bell Brothers Shell station on Steeles Avenue and Martin Street reopened yesterday after reports of gas fumes had led to the pumps being closed two days before Christmas.

After receiving complaints from the Milton OPP station across the street and at least one nearby resident, said Shell district engineer Craig Knapp, "we took some action."

In late October, emergency crews were forced to evacuate three homes for a brief period while gas fumes were ventilated.

Soil removed

Mr. Knapp said the source of the problem was a faulty connection between the gas pump and the underground tank.

After the leak was fixed, he said, the contaminated soil was removed and the main sewer line flushed.

This time around, he said, the problem was



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Skating we go

Sunday was a perfect day for ice skating at the Mill Pond, but three-year-old Monica Bertuzzi was a little hesitant at first. Mom was nearby, though, giving her daughter some encouragement as well as keeping her on her feet.

. . . blamed as cause



Photo by JON BLACKER

Feed the birds

Outdoor decorations of the edible variety were fashioned at Crawford Lake Conservation Area at a recent workshop. Fruit, nuts, suet and popcorn were among the ingredients that provide a winter feast for birds and squirrels. Staff Interpreter, Susan Hammond hangs one of the decorations outside the conservation centre.

Sunday shopping on lunch menu of chamber meeting

The Sunday shopping issue will be the subject of discussion at the January meeting of Milton Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will include a guest speaker who will address concerns and controversy surrounding the Retail Business

Holidays Act.

The location of the luncheon meeting and the identity of the guest speaker are to be announced.

The date for the meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 25 with a 12 noon start.