

What does April mean to you?

To Millions with Parkinson's Disease

- April is World Parkinson Awareness Month.
- April 11th is World Parkinson Day which celebrates the birth of Dr. James Parkinson.

Fact File

- Dr. James Parkinson named the disorder 'the shaking palsy' in the early 19th century.
- 100,000 Canadians have Parkinsons
- As many as a million Canadians are involved with Parkinsons as family members, caregivers, support groups and the medical community.
- Parkinsons is brain disorder affecting the control of movement
- There is no known cure!

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FEDERAL AFFAIRS

MPs debate Canada's role in Kosovo NATO attacks

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

While Canada's air attacks against Yugoslavia continue, MPs from neighbouring York Region ridings disagree on what Canada's parliament really agreed to do about Kosovo — and whether that response was poorly planned.

Thornhill MP Elinor Caplan, a Liberal, argued Canada's MPs set a clear and unanimous position last fall: Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic "should be stopped."

This week, Caplan named Milosevic as the reason NATO-led bombings haven't ended the civil war in Kosovo.

"Clearly, we're not dealing with a rational person and Milosevic ultimately will be held accountable for his actions," she said.

But Markham MP Jim Jones, a Tory, charged that the NATO allies' plans for air strikes were not well thought out.

"This is turning into a bit of a disaster right now," he argued.

And Jones said the Oct. 7 parliamentary debate that set Canada's official stance on Kosovo focused more on humanitarian relief than military strikes. "We didn't sign up at that time to the bombings or on the use of ground troops," the Tory MP said.

The debate touched on the specific possibility of NATO bombing, but the resolution supported by all parties that day didn't. It noted the plight of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians and "the government's

intention to take measures in co-operation with the international community to resolve the conflict, (and) promote a political settlement for Kosovo."

Both MPs said they are looking forward to Monday, when parliament has its first debate on the Yugoslavia NATO campaign since the bombings began.

'Clearly, we're not dealing with a rational person and Milosevic ultimately will be held accountable for his actions.'

Jones said the use of ground troops appears inevitable in the conflict, so Canada's military commitment and aims have to be made clear to the Canadian people.

Before the Gulf War began, the Conservative government held a full and open debate before Canadian troops were committed, he argued.

Jones said most of the constituent e-mails and calls he gets are on Kosovo people telling him to stop the bombing. "Sometimes it's 20, 30 a day."

But Caplan said most of her constituents say NATO's actions are necessary to end the atrocities against Kosovo's ethnic Albanians.

"What we want to do is stop them and send out a strong message that the world will not stand by," she added.

Singer gets standing ovation in Ottawa

Stouffville songwriter Justin Hines got a standing ovation within Canada's parliament buildings yesterday for performing what Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray agrees may become the country's official "theme song" for the new millennium.

Hines was personally chosen by Gray to cap the launch of the Canada Millennium Partnership Program, a federal fund for hundreds of local projects connected to the Year 2000.

"He was outstanding," Gray said later. "He just bowled everyone over. When he sang, everyone had tears in their eyes."

Markham MP Jim Jones sent Gray a tape of Hines, a Unionville High School student with a disability, after hearing the youth sing his Song for the

Millennium in Markham.

"He's a remarkable young man. I wanted other people to hear how good he was," Jones said.

Gray said he'd investigate Jones' idea that the song should be a national millennium theme.

"His song is more than a song — it's an anthem," Gray said, adding Hines will be asked to perform at other millennium events.

Jones said he's arranged to have Hines sing next to the House of Commons again for parliamentarians and journalists Monday afternoon, unfortunately during what could be the beginning of debate on Canada's actions in Yugoslavia.

—Mike Adler

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