



NORTH HALTON'S ONLY TRULY INDEPENDENT DAILY MULTIMEDIA NEWSGROUP

*Reclaiming our community, one story at a time.*

[HERALD ARCHIVES](#)

[COMMUNITY CALENDAR](#)

[LINKS](#)

[SEARCH](#)

## The political games that Joyce and Brent play, with our money

Posted on Monday, October 16 @ 08:08:54 EDT by [editor](#)

October 16, 2006

[The Turner Report.](#)



*Halton M.P. Garth Turner*

Halton: M.P. Garth Turner's - [Memo to taxpayers](#): Like you, I pay property taxes in Halton. A lot of them, actually. Got my new bill last Friday, which means on June 30th and September 29th, I have to cut more cheques.

So, like you, I want my property tax dollars spent on useful things – police, fire, social services, parks, or the salaries of bureaucrats and politicians who run the place. Also like you (I am sure), I don't want my tax dollars spent buying newspaper ads telling other politicians what to do.

Enter [Joyce Savoline](#), and [Brent Marshall](#), who run Halton Region. She's the top politician and he's the chief bureaucrat. This last week the two of them wrote columns published in full-page colour ads carried in at least four area newspapers. I figure that cost maybe \$10,000, which is way more than my property taxes for the whole year.

Now, I have two big problems with what's happened. First is the content of these political columns, which dump all over the current federal Conservative plan to send all parents in Halton with young children \$1,200 a year to help with family expenses.

Instead of having every parent get this money, Halton Region wants the federal and provincial governments to hand over \$23.1 million (of your tax dollars) to create just 600 new child care spaces. This would leave 34,400 children in Halton with no new child care spaces. It would leave more than 15,000 families with no extra money at all to help defray family expenses. But this cash would create new Halton Region employees who would run the child care.

Is that how you want your money spent? If it is, tell me.

My second big problem, is that Joyce Savoline and Brent Marshall don't need to spend thousands of dollars to make their political views known to the federal government. All they needed to do was call me.

In fact, after being elected, I asked for a meeting with the Region, went down to its headquarters building, met the Chair, and left saying I was completely open to working co-operatively with my colleagues there. I understand there is only one set of taxpayers around here, because I am one of them. Besides having my paycheque gutted for income taxes, and besides paying sales taxes, I have to make out those four property tax cheques for \$1,500 each.

So, as a taxpayer, when I know Halton Region leaders could have phoned me with their concerns and I would have responded, then I'm not too happy to see their personal public relations media campaign instead. I mean, what's the point? Do they dispute the results of the last federal election? Do they think they'll overthrow the government? Will spending the property tax dollars of Halton homeowners like me change Stephen Harper's mind?

So I called Joyce Savoline, chair of Halton, on Friday to say these things. She argued with me and ended the conversation by saying, "Garth, you will regret making this phone call."

And I do. Among other things.

M.P. Garth Turner

---

Contact Garth Turner, M.P. For Halton  
For general comments and input, you may  
e-mail Garth directly at any time:

Garth Turner is Halton's MP. Contact him at (905) 693-0166, or at [garth@garth.ca](mailto:garth@garth.ca).