



Mississauga MP, Tony Abbott, says he plans to make communication between himself and his constituents his most important aim. He is shown chatting with Mr. and Mrs. John Roden, of Clarkson Rd. N., as he walked through a portion of Port Credit. (Mississauga News photo by Fred Loek)

People problems, transport policy top priorities for Mississauga MP

Mississauga MP, Tony Abbott, has just completed his first month sitting in the House of Commons and he is already planning major additions to Federal policy.

Mr. Abbott, who spent part of his Saturday between meetings taking a stroll through part of Port Credit, said staying in touch with residents and trying to help form a

new transport policy are the top two items on his list of priorities.

Commenting on the need for residents to have quick and easy access to him when they need help, Mr. Abbott said he has his constituency office established in Dixie Plaza but bigger and better things are on the way.

"During the past 30 days I have been trying to be a representative by trying to learn how to function on Parliament Hill.

"The people of Mississauga should have, and will have, the facility

to get in touch with me when they want.

"The constituency office is open and the telephone number is 274-8773. In addition I have three people in Ottawa helping me.

"In the future, though, I'm thinking about having meetings every month. We might have one in Streetsville and next month have one in Malton and so on.

"I've thought also of having a Federal minister come in to speak along with other guests.

"Another idea is to get a trailer type affair that we can take to shopping

plazas. The idea would be for me to be there and let the people come in and talk," he said.

Mr. Abbott says he has found his niche in Parliament concerning resources, trade, financing, and most of all transport.

"I think it's time we got away from thinking air transport and put more serious thought into rapid ground transport.

"If it were possible to have a high-speed train that could make the journey between Toronto and Montreal in two hours, I think many

people would be able to use it.

"It would also be less expensive than air travel," he said.

Mr. Abbott, who is serving on committees already, feels he will be able to make an impact on the natural resources committee and he says resource planning is one of the most important problems facing the country.

In the coming session, Mr. Abbott sees housing and inflation as the two most important issues facing the government.