

*S. O. 31*

When is the government going to take up the cause for ordinary Canadians and look into the methods used by credit card companies to ensure fair business practices are applied in the matter of interest rates when applied to credit accounts of customers?

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**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

**Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre):** Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will join over 900 volunteers in forming a human ring around the Scarborough Civic Centre to celebrate volunteerism in our community.

This event will be a very appropriate way of celebrating National Volunteer Week, and I want to pay tribute to the Scarborough Association of Volunteer Administrators for initiating this ring around Scarborough.

Volunteers play a crucial and often overlooked role in our society. Whether it is in health care, recreation, social assistance or community service, volunteers make all our lives richer.

Tomorrow, Scarborough will celebrate the important contribution volunteers have made to our community. I am proud to be taking part in that celebration and extend to all volunteers in Scarborough and across Canada sincere thanks for taking the time to care.

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**WHARVES**

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, the livelihood of our fishermen depends on safe harbours and proper wharves, otherwise fishing boats can be seriously damaged and, more important, fishermen risk injury and possible loss of life.

I rise today on behalf of the fishermen in the community of Eastern Passage who are still waiting for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to extend their wharf. Despite repeated promises that the extension was on the regional list of priorities, nothing—and I repeat nothing—has yet been done.

I recently met with Stan Purdy, who expressed the fishermen's frustration with this government's unwillingness to come up with the necessary funds for this improvement. At a time when the Atlantic fisheries is in a state of crisis, I believe that repairing and improving

our harbour infrastructure is one way in which the federal government can show a real commitment to these fishermen.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and his predecessor are well aware of the representations I have made imploring them to allocate the necessary funds. I urge the government again today to take action now before there is a loss of vessels or, indeed, a loss of life, because of the lack of this needed improvement.

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**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform members of a critical situation occurring in southern Alberta. Southern Alberta is really a semi-desert area, such that early settlers and political leaders of all parties agreed that settlement required a secure source of water.

• (1110)

Under that policy, 13 irrigation districts have been organized and some 1.4 million acres of land are now irrigated. This has led to a sophisticated society of over 300,000 people raising grain, corn, beans, sugarbeets and other vegetables. As well, we have the most sophisticated beef, pork and poultry production and processing industry in North America. Over 50 towns and villages require irrigation water for their continued existence.

Members should visit southern Alberta and see this area first-hand, before so easily rejecting completion of the Oldman River dam. Indeed, courts should be more sensitive to the real consequences of their decisions. We are not dealing with abstract ideas here, but with the lives and histories of real people.

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**CHERNOBYL**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the fourth anniversary of the tragic explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine. This date has been declared by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR as the day of the Chernobyl disaster. Many people died. Three million people are living in irradiated territory in the Soviet Union and evacuations from affected villages are continuing today.