

[English]

MUSIC

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, as the member for Kingston and the Islands I am happy to inform the House that Kingston was the site of the Live Music Lovers' Weekend this past Saturday and Sunday. It was a weekend of great celebration. Dozens of local musicians participated in a spectacular display of musical talent organized by Kingston guitarist Matt Woodward.

Kingston's most famous rock group was away in Australia on tour while it received its second Juno award as entertainer of the year. Rob Baker, Gord Downie, Johnny Fay, Paul Langlois and Gord Sinclair, better known as The Tragically Hip, are winning fans worldwide for their composing and performing skills.

Parliament's acknowledged authority on rock, the hon. member for Windsor West, was heard to remark: "The Tragically Hip? They're terrific". What higher commendation for an outstanding group of musicians?

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PARAMEDIC APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of the most important facets of our health care system, ambulance paramedics.

In British Columbia paramedics are seen as front line health care providers in every type of emergency situation. Every year thousands of people are cared for by this system, by air, land or sea.

For instance, on March 12 of last year paramedics played a significant part in providing assistance to passengers in a collision between a B.C. ferry and a Japanese bulk coal carrier. As a former physician I know the importance of these men and women and the effective and efficient service they provide.

The week of April 4 has been designated by proclamation as Paramedic Appreciation Week in B.C. Please join me and my colleagues from British Columbia in showing appreciation for B.C.'s province-wide ambulance service.

S. O. 31

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago 15,000 farmers rallied in Saskatoon to protest the policies of this government and support farm families. A week or two later a similar rally was held in Lucknow, Ontario.

Projections for farm income for this year are dramatically worse than last. A cut of over \$1 billion in net farm income is projected for this year. In Saskatchewan net farm income is projected to fall 40 per cent from 1992 levels to an average of less than \$4,000 per farm family.

Next Tuesday eight farm organizations from across Saskatchewan will make presentations to a televised hearing of the Standing Committee on Agriculture to outline the desperate situation facing farm families in that province.

I call on the government to recognize the failure of its policies and programs and provide more assistance on an urgent basis so that these farmers can survive and stay on their land.

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SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, as a small business person in my private life, I rise to laud the initiative shown by the Bank of Nova Scotia on the small business lending front.

Scotiabank appears to want to lead by example. The bank has demonstrated a much needed aggressiveness in the area that is so important to our economic prosperity. Our small businesses must have access to start-up cash and loan capital to grow and expand.

This initiative carries with it an important message to the federal government, which is that a lot can be accomplished under new management and a fresh, renewed approach.

Sweeping changes to the Small Businesses Loans Act have kick-started the process, but let us not stop there. Others are needed to revitalize this sector. Let us have our departments root out and address our existing inhibitors. These are regulations, policies or practices which actually constrain the growth of our small business community.