

[English]

## TRANSPORTATION

### VIA RAIL SERVICES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Canadians are anxiously awaiting the verdict on the future of passenger rail service in the region.

Atlantic Canada is rural in nature and its residents have come to rely on VIA Rail as their major source of transportation to the rest of the nation.

In 1985 the VIA Atlantic Line was reinstated by the Government with the stipulation: "Use it or lose it". Atlantic Canadians have done this. More than 240,000 persons rode the rails in 1988, a quantitative increase over previous years.

Atlantic Canadians have kept their end of the bargain and are now looking to the federal Government to honour its commitment of 1985 to keep the VIA Atlantic Line open.

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[Translation]

## MUNICIPALITIES

### SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF VILLE DE LÉRY

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to join the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mulroney) in wishing all the people of Ville de Léry a happy anniversary because the town was founded 75 years ago, today.

Ville de Léry is a municipality in the riding of Beauharnois—Salaberry, on the banks of Lac St. Louis. Ville de Léry is proud of its history and proud of its residents. Thanks to careful management, the town has enjoyed balanced development, without incurring any debts, a rare exception in the annals of municipal history in Québec and Canada.

I wish all the people of Ville de Léry a very happy birthday party, and especially His Worship Mayor Jack Goodfellow, councillors Danielle Beauchamp, Arlette Vincter, Jean-Pierre Pilon, Jean-Louis Faubert, Richard

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Plamondon, and the chairman of these festivities, Mr. Yvon Gendron Junior, also a municipal councillor.

You may be sure that your Member of Parliament is proud of you and will take part in the festivities!

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[English]

## HISTORIC EVENTS

### CELEBRATION OF CENTENNIAL OF DESBARATS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, this weekend the community of Desbarats and the Townships of Johnson and Tarbutt are celebrating their one hundredth anniversary.

The community is named after George Pascal Desbarats, a prominent Montreal businessman and Queen's Printer in the 1800s who had mining rights in the area.

His great-great-grandson, Peter Desbarats, a noted broadcaster, author, and now Dean of the School of Journalism at the University of Western Ontario, will be our special guest to officially open the centennial.

The community of Desbarats has had a long and colourful history since the pioneer days. It is an important agricultural centre in the Algoma district and has been judged by *Time* magazine to be one of the best tourist locations in North America.

Today, many people commute to work in Sault Ste Marie. In recent years, it has become a centre of education with the establishment of the Central Algoma Secondary School there.

The people of Johnson Township have a long tradition of working together to improve community services and have built one of the finest arenas in the district for recreation and social events.

However, most of all it is noted for its community spirit. I have been proud to call it my home for the past 30 years.

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## THE BUDGET

### TIME DEVOTED TO BUDGET LEAK

**Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester):** Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I made a statement urging members of the Opposition to carry on with business other than the budget leak. They did not listen.