

Voters should understand meaning of billboard referendum question

Perhaps lost in the shuffle of the municipal election (abetted by the ongoing federal campaign) is the question local voters will be asked to address on the Nov. 13th ballot.

In an effort to help avoid expensive legal challenges to its sign by-law, the Town has decided to go to the people to determine whether they believe billboards should be allowed within Oakville's borders.

The question will be as follows:

"Should the Town of Oakville amend its Sign By-Law 1994-142 to allow for the erection and display of Billboard/Third Party signs within the Town of Oakville, Yes or No?"

Council approved placing the question on the ballot on July 25th through By-Law 2000-152, which was passed in accordance with the Direct Democracy Through Municipal Referendums Act, 2000.

Municipalities have the right to regulate, but not to ban, and Oakville currently has a ban on billboards. A total of 42 billboard applications are currently before the Town, 18 of these for lands owned by CN Rail.

At a summer public information meeting prior to implementation of the by-law, a wide range of ideas were expressed. Some residents thought billboards are "dangerous to drivers and ugly" while others - including those in the sign industry - point out that an outright ban cannot be defended in court. Most simply believed the question is a monumental waste of time.

The results are binding only if at least 50% of eligible voters vote and if either the yes or no option receives 50% plus one vote.

If the results favour billboards, says the Town's legal department, a binding

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vote means the municipality must do "everything in its power to place before Council amendments to the by-law permitting billboards at some locations in Oakville." If this happens, the Town could not "reverse or substantially change" the by-law for three years.

An affirmative answer may also prevent the Town from having to defend its Sign By-law from legal challenge.

If the vote is negative and binding, the Town would be prohibited "from doing anything within its jurisdiction to amend the by-law to permits billboards during the three year term of Council." It may also necessitate the Town defending its by-law at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

Prior to the by-law's passage, a lawyer representing one of the sign applicants referred to the referendum as an "exercise in futility" and in a July letter to the Town he said "there is simply no reasonable expectation" that at least 50% of eligible voters would cast ballots, considering the normal turnout for municipal elections is between 30% to 35%.

The Ennisclare Government Affairs Committee maintains that education - not a referendum - is the answer and legal challenges should be handled when they arise. The Joshua Creek Ratepayers Association position is that the Town should restrict and regulate billboards now, rather than risk defeat at the Ontario Court of Appeal.

In the 1997 municipal election, local voters were asked whether they approved of a permanent charity gaming club in Oakville. The idea was overwhelmingly rejected.

Today last chance to vote in advance polls

A total of 948 voters took advantage of this past weekend's advance polls prior to the Nov. 13th municipal election.

The advance polls, which were held both Saturday and Sunday, attracted 0.97% of Oakville's 97,884 qualified electors.

A third advance poll will be held today (Wednesday) from noon to 8 p.m. at the Sir John Colborne Centre, 1565 Old Lakeshore Rd; the Glen Abbey Recreation Centre, 1415 Third Line; and Town Hall, 1225 Trafalgar Road.

According to the Clerk's Department, the Town took pains to choose accessible advance poll locations in order to allow as many residents as possible to vote. They include qualified electors who work both inside and out of town.

The Clerk's Department has also made election information available at Oakville Place and during the Carousel of Nations event.

The weekend advance polls also tested out the new "optical scan automated vote technology" which, according to reports, worked well. Comments from voters regarding the system were also positive.

The vote tabulators operate like lottery machines that are able to read penciled markings on tickets. Electors are instructed to mark their ballot by completing the arrow to the right of the name of the candidate of their choice with the pen provided. They then return their ballot in a secrecy envelope to the Deputy Returning Officer responsible for operating the vote tabulators.

The Deputy Returning Officer then inserts the elector's marked ballot into the tabulator, and the tabulator will automatically count the vote accordingly.

BOOK SIGNING

"A Passion For Food" & "Jamie Kennedy's Seasons"

on
Saturday,
Nov. 11th
1:00 p.m. -
4:00 p.m.



Jamie Kennedy - Owner of Jamie Kennedy at the R.O.M. (Royal Ontario Museum)
Gerry Shikatani - Interim Dining Critic of The Toronto Star
Patrick Alleguede - Chef at the National Club in Toronto
will be at our store



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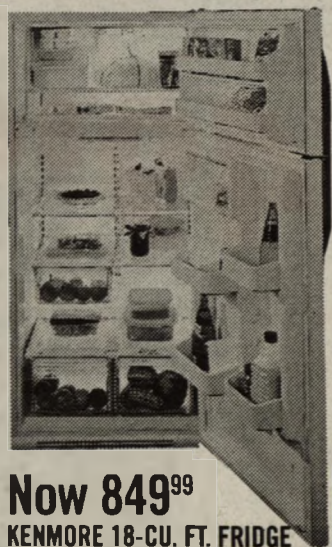
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Upper Canada Mall, Newmarket (905) 898-2300

Markville Shopping Centre (905) 946-1866

Promenade Shopping Centre (905) 731-3388

Woodbridge Furniture & Appliances Store

Hwy 7 & Weston Rd. (905) 850-6406

Markham Furniture, Appliances

& Home Improvements Store

Don Mills & Steeles Ave, Shops on Steeles & 404 (905) 881-6600

Richmond Hill Furniture & Appliances Store

Hwy. 7 and Yonge (905) 762-0870

Barrie Furniture & Appliances Store

400 & Molson Park Drive (705) 727-9287

East

Pickering Town Centre (905) 420-8000

Scarborough Town Centre (416) 296-0171

Oshawa Shopping Centre (905) 576-1711

Scarborough Furniture & Appliances Store
Kennedy Rd & 401, Kennedy Commons (416) 332-8577

Central

Fairview Mall (416) 502-3737

Gerrard Square (416) 461-9092

Woodbine Shopping Centre (416) 798-3800

Yorkdale Shopping Centre (416) 789-1105

Allen Road Furniture & Appliances Store

Allen Rd & Sheppard (416) 398-9947

West

Bramalea City Centre (905) 458-1141

Erin Mills Town Centre (905) 607-2300

Square One (905) 270-8111

Oakville Place (905) 842-9410

Sherway Gardens (416) 620-6011

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Lynden Park Mall, Brantford (519) 756-7451

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CORRECTION NOTICE

The following items advertised in this week's flyer will not be available: Verdi Mini Panettone, Kitchen Basics Toaster Oven, 4 pc Kitchen Set, Flannel Sheet Sets (Twin, Double and Queen sizes) and Pine Sol Lemon 1.2L. Rainchecks will be issued for the Tuxedo 20 pc Porcelain Dinnerware Set and Contact C 10's which will be late arriving to our stores.

The correct sale price for Poolmania is \$9.74 (25% off the regular retail price of \$12.99). Poolmania will be available in some stores only.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

SEARS CORRECTION

For our 56 Page Sears I Wish Flyer (Sale Dates: Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2000) (C111F500)

PAGE 49 - Both Kenmore Countertop Water Purifiers are not available for this promotion.

For our 24 Page Home Celebration Flyer (Sale Dates: Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2000) (V111V100)

PAGE 7 - Millbrook Sleigh Bed consists of headboard, footboard and Rails.

For our 72 Page Sears I Wish Flyer (Sale Dates: Nov. 6-12, 2000) (C112F500)

PAGE 13 - R & R Snowflake Pattern Jacket is not available for this promotion.

PAGE 53 - Cordless Phone, correct Stock #s should read: A-16335, B-16975, C-16965.

PAGE 58 - Kenmore Countertop Purifier will not be available for this promotion.

PAGE 64 - Beatrix Potter 3-Video Pack has been incorrectly photographed, correct video should be Nightmare Before Christmas.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

Sears Oakville Place Mon.-Fri. 9:30 am-9 pm. Sat. 7 am-7 pm. Sun. 10 am-7 pm.

Sears Furniture & Appliance Store Mississauga Mon.-Fri. 10 am-9 pm. Sat. 10 am-6 pm. Sun. 12 am-5 pm.