

# Miller retains mayor's seat

By BRIAN MacLEOD  
Herald Staff

Halton Hills voters gave incumbent Mayor Russ Miller a ringing endorsement Monday, returning him to office with almost 62 per cent of the vote.

He defeated challenger Pam Sheldon 7,145 votes to 4,454 in what many thought would be a much closer race.

Mayor Miller, who said he had the support of nine of the town's 12 councillors, said his honesty and personality helped him fend off the challenger.

Asked why voters returned him to office with such a wide margin of

victory Mayor Miller said, "Because I'm honest. People trust me. I've never sold anybody down the drain."

Mayor Miller said he had never changed from when he was working in the paper mill to when he was mayor.

But the campaign was soured somewhat by some of Councillor Sheldon's remarks which the Mayor said hurt him personally.

"I was angered with some of the things that were said about me with no substance," he said.

Coun. Sheldon drew the support of the citizens group POWER simply by making speeches and not by her actions, said Mayor Miller.

"She did nothing but stand up at the meetings and say what a great person she was... I didn't go out and tell people what a great guy Russ Miller is," Mayor Miller said.

The Mayor said he worked behind the scenes to meet with provincial officials, write letters and actively campaign against the Acton landfill site but he didn't seek public recognition for his efforts because "it was my job."

Mayor Miller said he was disappointed that some POWER members, who supported him before the landfill proposal, threw their support behind Coun. Sheldon.

Asked by reporters if he thought it was a dirty campaign the Mayor said "yes."



Russ Miller registered a convincing victory over challenger Councillor Pam Sheldon in the race for the mayor's seat. Mayor Miller

prevailed in a campaign that more than once grew heated as the two candidates went toe-to-toe.

## Turner stuns opponents

Opposition parties were stunned at the margin of victory by PC Garth Turner in the Nov. 21 federal election.

Liberal Pierre Klein arrived at Mr. Turner's North Halton Golf and Country Club headquarters to congratulate the winner. He later said at his own campaign headquarters that he will "keep up the faith."

"Everything we could determine from polling, from working doors, led us to believe it would be a very, very tight race," Mr. Klein's campaign chairman Kevin Bitje said.

New Democrat Fern Wolf said she "can't believe" the free trade sentiment apparent in the election results.

NDP riding president Allan Moore said: "I'm going to go home and practise singing the American national anthem."

Libertarian George Panagapka was "quite happy" with the 478 votes he garnered during the campaign.

In the municipal elections, just one week earlier, four newcomers took seats around the town council table.

Pat McCarthy and Anne Currie defeated Tom Politi for the two Ward 3 seats. Robert Heaton and Alf Spence edged Don McQueen in a race that couldn't be decided until the last poll was in. In the only Regional race, Ilse Hewitt successfully made the jump from town politics holding off a strong challenge from Bill Robson.

Bill Fisher upset incumbent Ab Tennant in the race for the Ward 3 hydro commissioner seat. Incumbents Murt Allison and Bill Smith retained their seats on the commission.

And in the only school board race Dick Howitt held off challenges from Lyn Apgar and Rod Taylor.



About 46 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote in the municipal elections, the largest recorded turnout in years.

Mike Compton, a 17-year-old Georgetown resident, was credited with saving the lives of six people in an early morning fire Sept. 12. Mr. Compton entered a burning building at 164 Guelph St. and knocked on tenants' doors awakening them in time to escape the blaze which caused an estimated \$300,000 damage.

After 31 years of service, the owners of the post office in Limehouse General Store announced their intention to discontinue postal services in late November.

"This is a funeral today," said Mrs. Della Gaskill-Cadwallader after she and her husband announced they would drop the service.

Members of the citizens group POWER took their protest to Queen's Park Nov. 9. The group, which organized to fight the Acton landfill site proposal, interviewed an effigy of Environment Minister James Bradley.

Town councillors were caught off guard early November when they learned that the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board was close to finalizing a lease for the 540 acre Scotsdale Farm near Ballinacree.

## PCs take Halton-Peel riding

By Mike Turner  
Brian MacLeod  
Donna Kell  
Herald Staff

In what proved to be a surprise for many, Progressive Conservative Garth Turner steamrolled his opposition to become Halton-Peel's first Member of Parliament, in Monday's federal election.

Mr. Turner's victory was never in doubt as he collected 54.5 per cent of the decided vote in Halton-Peel. With a total of 28,412 votes, Mr. Turner easily defeated challengers Liberal Pierre Klein, with 16,401; New Democrat Fern Wolf with 6,841; and Libertarian George Panagapka with 478.

Mr. Turner was declared the victor less than an hour after the polls closed, and a short time later, officials had projected a PC majority government, much to the delight of the crowd that gathered at the North Halton Golf and Country Club for a victory celebration.

The Progressive Conservatives swept back into power with a smaller but still solid majority. The PCs took 170 seats across the nation, while the Liberals upped their total to 81 seats, and the New Democratic Party took 44 seats.

For Mr. Turner, Monday's victory was "truly a humbling experience."

The run for the Halton-Peel seat was highly-intense and often bitter for the candidates, with the free trade issue becoming a catalyst that brought out 76.1 per cent of voters in the riding.

Free trade was the most contentious issue in the election, not only in Halton-Peel, but throughout the country.

Mr. Turner credited his Citizen's Guide to Free Trade with putting

him over the top. "We rolled up our sleeves and got into it," he said. A lot of people were "confused and frightened" until the final days of the campaign.

Mr. Turner said his high profile as Business Editor of the Toronto Sun newspaper gave him a "high recognition factor" in Halton-Peel.

He also admitted that John McDermid's legacy in this riding may have helped. Mr. McDermid, who represented Brampton-Georgetown for 10 years, campaigned with Mr. Turner. "I owe a debt to

John."

A well managed campaign machine consisting of 600 volunteers also worked for Mr. Turner in

Halton-Peel.

A dejected Mr. Klein accepted the election process as "the decision of the people."

It was apparent from the onset of the election campaign that the Tories were intent on winning, he said, demonstrated by the visits of such "heavyweights" as the prime minister, himself, and Minister of External Affairs Joe Clarke.

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