

Parking & entrance at rear off Court St. 878-2339 Milton Hours Mon, Tues 9 - 6

Wed 9 - 7

Georgetown 873-7403 Georgetown Hours Mon, Tues, Wed 10 - 7 Thurs, Fri 9 - 9 Thurs, Fri 9 - 9

Queen's Park Report



Noel Duignan MPP **Halton North**

In the life of any nation there are times when the course of history is changed forever. That happened in Canada in 1867 at Confederation. In 1931 the Statute of Westminster decreed that the United Kingdom could never again control Canadian laws. It happened in 1982 when the Constitution came home.

The upcoming referendum is an opportunity unlike the others, It's a chance for us to have a say in what type of country we want to build for ourselves and for our children. Changing the constitution—helping to chart the course for the futurefor a long time. Why do we need to make that decision now? And why should we choose the elements contained in the Charlottetown Accord? A constitution must be a living document. That means that, from time to time, a constitution must be looked at again to see if it is serving its purpose. If it is allowed to stagnate, a nation becomes stuck with a piece of paper that describes how it looked a hundred or two hundred years ago. There's a better way—a document that evolves to depict the way things are now and the way we would like to be in the future.

First of all, the constitution helps to define who we are. That's part of the Canada Clause that I've mentioned before. It describes the fundamental characteristics of the way we see Canada today. Some people or groups are worried because they're not mentioned specifically in the Canada Clause. They think this means they will be second class citizens. But the clause itself has the answer to that concern. It says that "Canadians are committed to a respect for individual and collective human rights and freedoms of all people."

Not just English or French or

women or men. All people.

The Canada Clause also covers some elements that have been left out of our constitution for far too long. It recognizes that the First Nations have the right to self government in Canada. That means the right to promote their culture and language, to ensure the integrity of their societies and govern those societies themselves. It also recognizes that Quebec is a distinct society-not better, not worse-merely distinct. That's a historical reality—one of the building blocks of our nation and one of the things that makes us all distinct-distinctly Canadian.

Another important section of the Charlottetown Accord talks about Canada's Social and Economic Union. It describes what our governments should be trying to accomplish. It's a section that the people of Ontario should feel particularly good about-it grew out of a series of proposals that Ontario's negotiators took to the bargaining table. Some items on the list weren't even thought of as the work of government in 1867. But today Canadians count on certain things as key to our way of life. Here's what the representatives from across our country felt must be objectives for our social well-

- a comprehensive system of across the country

- high quality primary and sec-

- the right of workers to organize themselves and bargain collec-

— and protecting and preserving the environment for the present and

the bare bones of what governments must try to provide for their

I've already decided to vote "yes " If you need more information to help you make your choice, call my Milton office at 878-1729.

Music teachers meeting Oct. 13

The next monthly meeting of the Halton Hills Music Teachers Association will be held on October 13 at 1 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown. Teachers of all instruments and of any qualifications are urged to

attend.

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