

For the first time

Computer to be used in election

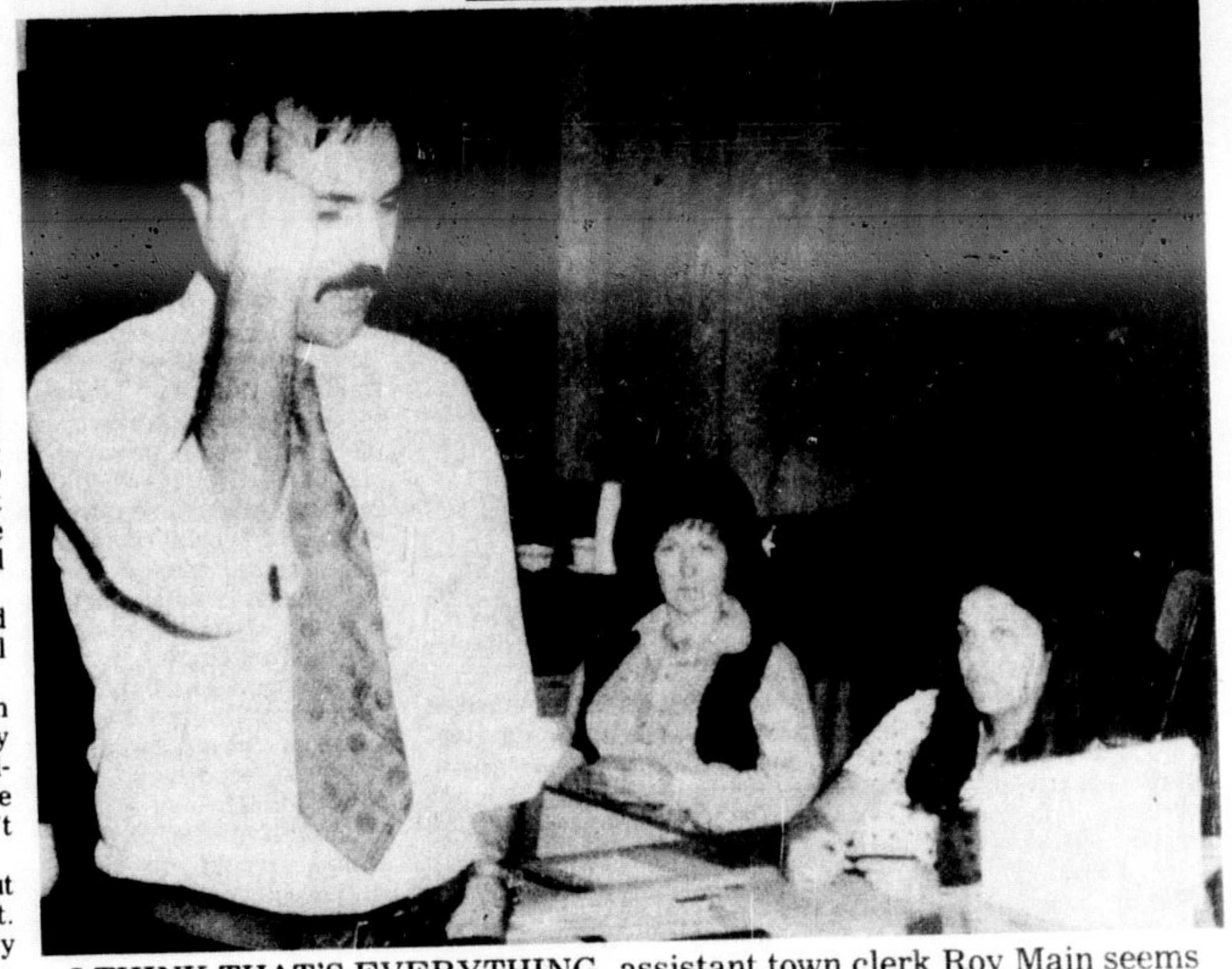
By Rod Lamb
Milton voters will know within two hours of the closing of the polls Monday, Nov. 13, who won the election. Town clerk and returning officer Campbell Thompson predicts the use of the municipality's new computer will simplify the task of tabulating the scores of the candidates as the various polls come in. The results will be flashed immediately from "election central", the town hall, to the Lions Hall and to The Champion. The hall will be the public viewing area as the returns are posted on a board.

The Champion is offered a telephone answering service to inform callers of the results. Thompson said the only people allowed in the town hall election night will be deputy returning officers and poll clerks and 21 town hall staffers. He said things will be chaotic enough with this number of people (127) coming and going—without the public being allowed to enter as well. The Lions Hall is the location where people as well as the candidates may see the returns as they are posted. Thompson said seven town

hall staff will be on duty posting the results. This is the first time the town has had the assistance of a computer and he said it should tabulate results faster. In case of breakdown, however, there is a backup system. There will be 47 polls open Monday. Seven will be in Ward One, 32 in Ward Two and eight in Ward Three. Six advance polls bring the total to 53. Voting hours Monday will be 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. When the polls close the deputy returning officers and polling clerks will tally the ballots, seal the box and report to town hall with the results. Thompson said the results of each will be checked as they come in and then flashed to The Champion and the Lions Hall. He said the deputy returning officers and poll clerks will receive their remuneration before leaving the building. Instruction on how to run a polling station was given last week. Election officers and clerks for Wards One, Two and Three received their direc-

tions Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively while those responsible for the advance polls were briefed Friday afternoon. Speaking at the latter,

Thompson said, "It's a long day. Take an electric kettle. Take something to eat." Because the advance polls, Saturday and Tuesday, ran from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the deputy returning officers and poll clerks were required to be at the poll all day without leaving, Thompson said he urged them to bring a good book. "You wouldn't want to read the election literature all day," he said. Any plaque or notice with the councillors' or mayoralty candidates' names at the polling places, have to be covered so someone won't complain, Thompson said. He said the average turnout on election day is 49 per cent. The advance polls are likely to have one per cent. Eligible to vote are 13,067. Council decided there would be two advance polls for this election, Thompson said. Normally, there would be just one.



I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING, assistant town clerk Roy Main seems to be saying as he scratches his head during the briefing of the deputy returning officers (DRO) and poll clerks at town hall Friday. He and clerk Campbell Thompson instructed all 106 DROs and clerks last week in preparation for the municipal election. Listening to Main are poll clerk Helen Brown (left) and DRO Debbie McCuaig.



POLL CLERK Marg Poloni checks documents in ballot boxes during a briefing session at the town hall Friday. She is one of the 106 volunteers assisting in the conducting of the municipal election.



FINAL INSTRUCTIONS are given by town clerk Campbell Thompson (left) and parks and recreation director Larry Arbic during an election briefing session at town hall Friday. Arbic gave poll clerks instructions on using a town building for a polling station. Thompson is the town's chief returning officer.

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RE-ELECT
H.H. (BERT) HINTON
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BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARDS 1 and 2
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It's time to control the high cost of education

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- Association of Canadian Community Colleges
- Canadian Vocational Institute
- Ontario, Canadian, and World Craft Councils
- Reeve of Acton — Warden of Halton County
- Director — Ontario Counties Association

CONCERNS

- Declining enrollment but with increased assessment.
- High cost of education and resulting high taxes.
- Back to basics and the discipline of core curriculum.
- Structured programs to ensure student mobility within the school system.
- Competition — minimum standards and goals.
- System should rest on accountability of everyone involved.
- Involvement of community in educational process.
- Discipline — Morality — Integrity — Physical Education

ISSUES

- Community use of schools.
- School facilities should be functional, not expensive.
- Add proven new methods, while retaining the best of the old.
- Expenditure of over 86 million dollars for last year is highly questionable.
- Evaluation of administrative organization.
- Control of salary costs.

We have declining enrollment. We have a continuing increase in assessment which results in more tax dollars but no reduction in the mill rate. We cannot allow the cost of education and the increase in taxes to continue. To create the best learning environment for the student, we must pay increasing attention to discipline, morality, integrity, and physical education. To increase the quality of education we must set priorities. A first priority must be to see to it that our students attain higher levels of competence in the basics. Then use the time which gives the best cost — benefit to other programmes such as physical education, special education, parenting, family counselling, drama, art, music, etc. We should avoid duplication and competition with other agencies. For those who do not excel in academic pursuits, let us encourage them towards vocational and technical courses so that they will qualify for job opportunities which offer a good future. We should involve the community in the educational process in many ways. Work programmes for students for example, could be encouraged. We need to evaluate our procedures in testing and examinations to ensure reasonable standards and goals, and to prepare the student for the competitive world. We should strive for more structured programs to ensure student mobility in the school system. We need less experimentation with the students and the teachers. The needs of the students are now met to a certain level but we can always improve that level by constant evaluation and setting sensible priorities. We should also evaluate our administrative organization and set priorities for what we really need and can afford. We must ensure that our school buses meet high safety standards and that schedules and routes are set to bring the most reasonable use and convenience to those who need this facility. Some very small children spend over an hour of travel each way every school day and carry their lunches. The parents of school children in Wards 1 and 2 give wonderful support to their schools and earn the grateful thanks of their community. We should maintain and foster the community use of schools. But, we should not subsidize with education dollars, municipal parks and recreation budgets which receive their own provincial grants. The board should re-assess past agreements and practices and make appropriate revisions to give the greatest benefit to the public. Teacher negotiations should occur on a provincial level between the Provincial Teacher Federations and The Ministry of Education, or their representatives. This would give equality of pay and working conditions throughout the province. It would also increase the opportunity to create a better working climate, increase communications, and reduce stress for both Boards and Staff. This would need provincial legislation.

It's time to get back to basics
IN CURRICULUM AND BUDGETS

HINTON

DUE TO PROBLEMS OF GOING OUT OF BUSINESS AND LEASING MY STORE, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CALL ON MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS THIS YEAR. I AM SORRY AND HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. I WILL BE FREE IN THE COMING YEAR TO DEVOTE MY TIME TO SERVING YOU AND EDUCATION IN HALTON.

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