

Thirty-six Halton residents become Canadian citizens

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

His reasons for coming to Canada may not be the most adventurous or romantic.

But Milton resident Hamid Slimi was just as proud as each of his 35 fellow new Canadians to finally become a citizen at a ceremony May 6 at Sam Sherratt School.

"I've always loved Canada," Mr. Slimi said.

"For me, it's the right place."

Mr. Slimi grew up in Morocco and emigrated to the United States about 10 years ago for educational reasons. He arrived in Canada about four years later because of a work transfer and said he's never been sorry.

"I'm proud of what the Canadian government stands for regarding war. I'm proud we're peacemakers," he said.

He's also proud to be a Miltonian.

"It's the best city in the world," he said, adding that he feels it's a safe community in which to raise his three kids.

The ceremony was presided over by Judge Frank Hayden.

"Underneath the things that make us different are all the things that make us the same. Everybody gets bound together today as Canadians," he said.

The 36 new citizens who live in Halton region

are from 27 different countries including China, Peru, the Azores and England.

Students from Sam Sherratt played a large part in the ceremony. Some students painted a large 'Welcome to Canada' banner and flags to decorate the gym, while others performed in the choir and band for their guests. Students in grades 5, 7 and 8 attended the ceremony.

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