

Comment

Turnout impressive

The election signs have almost disappeared, the promotional pamphlets have been discarded and Canada has a new prime minister.

For a winter election that was supposed to test the patience of an already apathetic electorate, this 39th trip to the polls proved to be anything but boring.

Milton residents demanded information from the local candidates and paid close attention to the national scene.

So tuned in were residents that the Halton Riding showed an upswing in voter turnout with 70.8 per cent of those eligible to cast a ballot taking the time to visit their neighbourhood polling stations.

In Halton, a total of 69,212 votes were cast among 97,765 eligible voters across the riding that encompasses Milton and northern parts of Oakville and Burlington.

Advance polls may have contributed to the higher voter turnout. Consider the fact a total of 9,430 Halton voters visited the ballot box prior to election day — nearly triple that of the 3,319 advance votes cast during the summer election of 2004.

The candidates themselves should collec-

tively give themselves a pat on the back. They made this election interesting — no easy task during December.

The political hopefuls should be proud that they managed to engage a frustrated electorate. All-candidates meetings, meet and greets with the party leaders, non-stop door-knocking and telephone campaigns kept voters in the know.

Garth Turner, a former cabinet minister in the short-lived Kim Campbell Tory government, had one of the highest profiles among the challengers in the election.

A syndicated columnist and business TV commentator, Mr. Turner was a familiar name and face to many voters.

One of his key campaign promises was to hold regular 'Town Hall' meetings to stay in touch with his constituents. As a former cabinet minister — albeit for a short time — Turner could even be in line for a post in Stephen Harper's cabinet.

As Mr. Turner heads to Ottawa in his new role, we say thanks to outgoing MP Gary Carr for choosing politics as a career and working hard on behalf of his constituents.



Our Readers Write

Bingo hall fees were way too high

Dear Editor:

I read the recent story regarding the closing of Milton Bingo Country — and the great loss of profit that would result from it — with great interest.

As the manager of school administrative operations at Milton District High School, I'm responsible for keeping track of all income and revenue for the school.

In 2004 we ran 34 bingos and during 2005 we ran 30. Most of these bingos

were the late bingos on Thursday nights.

During that two-year period of time, we made a grand total profit of \$12,155, after paying all necessary expenses such as \$7,983.75 in license fees to the Town of Milton.

In my opinion, it really was time to close down the bingo hall when licensing fees for a non-profit group such as ours were that close to the profits we made.

Sheila Sheppard
Milton

Liberals deserved to be kicked out of office

(The following letter was addressed to former Halton MP Gary Carr, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

To Gary Carr, I would like to say that based on the campaign of the federal Liberals and the one you ran locally, you both deserved to be whole-heartedly kicked out of office.

The disgusting fear-mongering campaign the Liberals polluted our airwaves and newspapers with was a perversion of democracy. Voters should be encouraged to vote for

you, not scared into voting against someone else.

It's also my opinion, Mr. Carr, that the Liberals shouldn't have preached Canadian values by running an American-style attack campaign.

If you and your party were worthy of re-election, you would have campaigned on what good you've brought the country, as opposed to spreading outright lies about the Conservatives' platform and making Stephen Harper out to be some extremist — which he isn't.

And going off of Mr. Turner's

record as MP through much of the '80s and early '90s, and Mr. Carr's record recently, this spoke loudly to me about who had more desire to represent Halton constituents.

Locally, Mr. Turner, NDP Anwar Naqvi and Dr. Kyle Grice of the Green Party all ran fantastic, clean and ethical campaigns.

I look forward to being properly represented in Ottawa by an MP who cares, an MP who will stand up for Halton and an MP who will stand up for Canada.

David Ellis
Willow Avenue

Overwhelming support very much appreciated

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Stephanie Thiessen, Graham Paine, Karen Smith and the rest of The Champion staff for their coverage of my son Gregory's stolen hockey equipment just before Christmas.

This prompted a great outpouring of support, and I was very encouraged and inspired to realize again that Milton was a caring community like it always has

been — with so many generous citizens reaching out in our time of need.

We wish to thank all the acknowledged and anonymous Miltonians for their generous donations, and for lifting our spirits at Christmas time.

Your caring and support has meant a lot to us.

Joyce Sanderson
Milton

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