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Candidates primed for election battle



A Milton landmark came tumbling down on Tuesday when the Petro-Canada gas station at the corner of Bronte and Main streets was torn down. The new owner, Demetris Nistas, intends to build a full-service gasoline sta-

tion, car wash and convenience store on the block. A house just north of the gas station was also torn down. Here, Oscar Fernandez (left) and Gerry Jacobs begin the heavy work of cleaning up.

Photo by JOHN WARREN

Ready by March

Gas station undergoing major renovation

By LISA TALLYN

A service station which has been a mainstay at the corner of Main St. and Bronte Rd. since 1963, is now just a pile of wood, concrete and plaster.

The building was demolished on Tuesday, along with the house on the corner of Mill St. Both buildings were on the same lot.

By March, a three-bay service centre, gas bar, convenience store, and drive-thru car wash should be completed on the site. It will extend from Main to Mill St.

The centre will operate as a Petro Canada sta-

tion. It was formerly Bonin's Esso.

Tuesday was a sad day for Milton resident Wilma Tyrer.

Mrs. Tyrer's father, Kelly (John) McEachern, opened a gas station on the corner in 1930. He operated the business from a tiny building, which he replaced in 1963.

Mrs. Tyrer remembers the station and the stone house which used to sit beside it fondly. That is where she was raised. The house was lost in a fire more than five years ago.

Mr. McEachern died in 1967, his daughter Wilma took over the business and ran it until

1967. A grocery store once occupied the space which until Tuesday was a service bay.

Mrs. Tyrer sold the station to Shirl Ward in 1967. He ran it for a time, then sold it again to Fred Bonin, who renamed it Bonin's Esso.

Demetris Nistas, a North York man who commutes to Milton every day, bought the station and property in January, 1987. He operated the centre under the name Niskar.

Mr. Nistas is excited about the new station, saying it will be "the biggest and best station in Milton."

Excavation of the site should begin next week.

If the advance polls are any indication, Monday's federal election promises one of the highest voter turnouts since the Second World War.

Both area ridings are reporting above normal response to advance polls and much interest in the election battle.

The returning officer for Oakville-Milton, Bob Hitchcox, says about 3,000 people will visit the advance polls before they close tonight (Friday). Anyone can vote in the office of the returning officer, 1298 Rebecca St., near Woodside, Oakville, until 9 p.m. tonight. Similarly, the returning officer for Halton-Peel, Milton town councillor Don McMillan, says about 2,500 people have voted.

Oakville-Milton is seen as a tougher fight for long-time PC member and cabinet minister Otto Jelinek. He's up against Liberal Bonnie Brown, a popular Oakville local councillor, and NDP candidate Richard Banigan. Also running are Jim Stock, for the Libertarians and Paul Calloway, for the Christian Heritage Party.

The final voting lists show that 83,331 people were enumerated from a total population of (est.) 119,000. Since Milton and Oakville are designated urban areas, the riding is considered an urban riding. Therefore, anyone not on the voters list cannot vote in the election.

Mr. Hitchcox said there will 253 polling stations. However, they will add one at Maplehurst Correctional Centre should inmates be allowed to vote. That decision is expected today (Friday).

Results of the 1984 election, transposed onto the new boundaries, show the following voting pattern: PC Otto Jelinek 60.7 per cent; Liberal Oriana Currie 22.6 per cent; and NDP Richard Banigan 14.3 per cent. Other candidates, most notably Green Party candidate Chris Kowalchuk, received 2.5 per cent.

Halton-Peel is a new riding and features a hard-fought battle between PC Garth Turner, the newspaper columnist, and Pierre Klein, for the Liberals. Fern Wolf, the NDP candidate, might be a spoiler in the race. Her party opposes free trade and she personally

• see ELECTION on page 8

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