

Duignan still opposes Sunday shopping

By **ROB KELLY**
The Champion

Halton North MPP Noel Duignan says he won't try and hold up the proposed change to Sunday shopping legislation, but he probably won't vote in favour of it either.

Mr. Duignan, who in the past has opposed Sunday shopping, admits to being "disappointed in a way. Public opinion has changed. It was totally against Sunday shopping and now it has completely reversed itself."

Mr. Duignan said he won't take part in any stall tactics or displays of displeasure with the legislation. Some members of the NDP government have said they will publicly air their dissatisfaction with the government's about-face on the issue in the legislature. "I won't get up in the House and debate it," the Halton North member said.

"I was opposed to it and I still am, but people in the riding have indicated they're in favour of it," Mr. Duignan said.

He was referring to a poll commissioned by Metroland, this news-

paper's parent company, indicating that about 63 per cent of Milton adults supported wide-open Sunday shopping and another 15.5 per cent were in favour of some modified type of Sunday store openings.

Last week Premier Bob Rae announced his decision to overturn the government's position in Sunday shopping. Stores opened for the first time last Sunday, and a vote to change the law at Queen's Park is expected later this week.

"I guess we have to live with reality," as far as meeting public expectations, Mr. Duignan said. While he intends to go with his conscience against Sunday shopping in the upcoming free vote, "I understand where the Premier is coming from" in supporting it. He termed Mr. Rae's decision "practical."

But Mr. Duignan warned that it's unlikely Sunday shopping will prove to be Ontario's economic salvation in the ongoing recession. "I think some people are going to be disappointed," he said, although allowing there will be "certain job increases," probably mostly in part-

time work.

Mr. Duignan said that while people have "confused" the Sunday shopping question with the problem of cross-border purchases by Canadians, Sunday openings in Ontario "will not solve" the challenge posed by the migration of Canadians and their money to American border towns.

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