

Residents being counted for referendum

By **BARB JOY**

Special to *The Champion*

Trucks are rolling up to the warehouse doors at 1090 Speers Road in Oakville. They are carrying supplies for the 504 enumerators who, from October 2-7 will be hitting the streets in the Oakville/Milton electoral riding to record the names of voters who will decide the fate of their country in the October 26 referendum.

In a long room of the building — the data centre — 12 recently installed computers wait in silent anticipation for the hands that will keep track of all records involving the vote.

In another room, two workers are making enumeration kits, carefully cutting and pasting a map of the area for each one.

Like the coach before an important game, Returning Officer Robert Hitchcox is gearing up for the stress that will surely come with escalating duties officially ending on Oct. 27.

Only then, when the official addition has been made and transmitted to the chief electoral officer in Ottawa, when the recyclable ballot boxes and computers have been packed up and sent back, can he close the office and go home.

In the meantime, he expects he'll spend Thanksgiving weekend sticking labels on enumerators' cards. Besides that, he and his office staff of five full-time and "three or four part-time" must ensure that information about the referendum is available to all those requesting it.

As well, he must appoint 252 polling clerks from lists traditionally sent in by the political party that finished second in the last federal election and also choose the same number of district returning officers from lists submitted by the federal party who won the last election.

Apart from these two important core units, nine revising agents must be hired to check enquiries from people who claim to have been missed in the enumeration process. This is perhaps Mr. Hitchcox's most trying responsibility. People can become very upset if they believe they have no chance to vote, he said. He well remembered the election in which some 100 people failed to get on the voters' list.

To narrow the margin of error, three new positions have been added.

An "enumerator supervisor" will collect information from the enumerators in the field and take it to the riding office.

An automation co-ordinator will ensure the paper work goes through smoothly.

And, lastly, an assistant administrator will help oversee the data centre where 20 data operators will work flat out in two shifts to quickly make up voters' lists from information the enumerators give them.

While mistakes may still be made, residents have ample opportunity to rectify them.

Those missed on the initial enumeration may have their names added in one of three ways. They can ask a revising agent to visit their residence or place of work any time between Oct. 8-19. Between those dates, they can also go to the returning office to be recorded.

Or, they may attend the Sitings for Revision on Oct. 17-19 at various convenient sites from 10-11 a.m. and 7-10 p.m. on those days.



Fairest pets of all

One of the most popular events for children at the annual Milton Fall Fair is the pet show. Entries included traditional pets like cats and dogs and unusual entries like a crayfish caught in the Mill Pond. (Top photo) Rachel Weeden, 5, entered her dog Lucky, a 5-month-old Shih Tzu in the most obedient class. (Bottom left) Of course Dan Martin, 13, entered this crayfish in the most unusual pet class. The owner-pet look alike class inspired Trish Saunders 12 (below), to dress herself and her 6-month-old dog in Mexican garb. The one with the floppy ears is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

Photos by Graham Paine



Ceremony marks final step for foot bridge

The final step in the completion of a bridge for hikers over Dufferin Quarry will be taken Saturday, Oct. 3 at 2 p.m. when an interpretive lookout is officially opened.

The opening will mark the conclusion of a \$15,000 project which followed the earlier completion of the adjacent Dufferin Quarry foot bridge across the Niagara Escarpment.

The new interpretive lookout includes a fence made of natural boulders, an interpretive plaque explaining the diverse geology of the area and the importance of aggregates to the local economy. A second plaque commemorates the 200 or so people and organizations who gave financial support to the bridge and lookout.

Major supporters of the Dufferin Quarry Bridge and the lookout include Dufferin Aggrates, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Toronto Bruce Trail Club and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

The opening ceremony will include representatives from the supporting agencies, government officials and local elected officials. After the 45 minute ceremony, refreshments will be served and bus tours of the quarry conducted.

Dufferin Quarry is located on First Line (Dublin Line) off Regional Road 9, west of Hwy. 25.



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