

# Halton-Peel says 'yes' by 15% margin

Turner praises 'new era in democracy'

By LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Unlike the majority of Canadians, Halton-Peel riding voters supported the Charlottetown Constitutional Accord in Monday night's referendum by a margin of about 15 per cent.

Unofficial results show 33,650 'yes' votes were cast in the riding which covers Campbellville and north-west rural Milton, compared to 24,781 'no' votes.

The 'yes' side had more success here than it did in the rest of province however, where the vote was deadlocked with the 'Yes' side maintaining a slight edge of 49.8 per cent versus 49.6 per cent against.

The results in Halton-Peel played a role in the narrow approval of the accord in Ontario. But the deal collapsed when it was rejected in Quebec and five other provinces.

## High turnout

Despite the defeat of the Accord, which Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner strongly supported, he is calling the referendum a "real hit for direct democracy."

Mr. Turner says voter turnout in the riding mirrored the results across the country. Unofficial results show that of the 77,828 people eligible to vote in Halton-Peel Monday night, about 75 per cent or 58,710 did. A total of 279 ballots cast were rejected.

The MP felt good after the results were in Monday night. "I feel good for a number of reasons," said Mr. Turner. "In Halton-Peel about 60 per cent of the voters were in favour of the Accord. We exceeded the popular vote nationally, provincially and in Metro Toronto."

## Uncertain times

"The people were directly involved in running the country. This is a new era of democracy."

But he adds that Canada is facing uncertain times.

"The sky won't fall but the dollar will jostle around a bit."

## CANADA VOTES

He says the country's future and economic health will depend on the separatists in Quebec.

"This is a dark night for Canada if this gives the separatists a boost. If they get a huge bounce out of this, it will be a rough road down the line."

Turner says he wasn't surprised by the resounding rejection of the deal across the country.

"No" was the easier vote. You could vote 'no' if you didn't like any of the 60 clauses (in the Accord). You could vote 'no' if you hate Brian Mulroney or Clyde Wells or another politician."

He says in hindsight the package was probably too big, and the politicians could have come up with a better way of presenting it to the public.

"Tonight Canada has an undemocratic, unelected senate, we have the possibility of another Oka, and we have no gender equality in our constitution," said Mr. Turner reflecting on what he thinks are some of the positive aspects of the Accord that have been lost.

## 'Back away from this'

"The temptation would be to back away from this," said Mr. Turner when asked what Prime Minister Mulroney, the Premiers, and other politicians will do now. "But I don't think that is possible. I don't think we can sweep the Constitution issue under the carpet."

He says the politicians will have a tough job ahead of them.

"Mulroney is in a very difficult position. (The results of the referendum) have shown how difficult it is to govern a country that is so split on a linguistic and regional basis."

# Free soft drinks for designated drivers at Kelsey's

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

Designated drivers will find "the real thing" is also the free thing at Kelsey's starting Saturday.

The restaurant chain, with support from State Farm Insurance and Coca-Cola, is helping in the fight against drunk driving by offering complimentary soft drinks to those carrying the car keys.

Milton OPP Constable Dave Thomas approached Kelsey's asking for their participation in the program to keep impaired drivers off the road.

He called the program "an extremely important advancement in the fight against drinking and driving."

"The number of people killed and injured on Ontario roadways as a result of driving after drinking remains unacceptably high," said Constable Thomas.

"The implementation of this program with other community-based initiatives is essential if significant change in the magnitude of this problem is to continue."

While drivers aged 16 to 24 years represent 15 per cent of licensed drivers in Ontario, according to statistics, the age group accounts for 28 per cent of drunk driving collisions and 32 per cent of fatal crashes.

However, since 1983, young driver involvement in drinking and driving collisions has been declining faster than any other age group. Drivers aged 25 to 34 have since overtaken the younger drivers, accounting for the greatest percentage of alcohol-related crashes.

Constable Thomas said most establishments he approached for support in the program declined involvement for fear that it would "hurt their alcohol sales."

The program currently includes Kelsey's 40 restaurants across Ontario, and plans are underway for Canada-wide expansion, said Al



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

There will be treats for designated drivers Halloween night at Kelsey's. October 31 is the kick-off for a program that offers free Coke to drivers. Promoting the program are from left OPP Constable Dave Thomas, State Farm Insurance Good Neigh Bear and Tim Lloyd, service director for Kelsey's Restaurants.

McKell, director of operations for the chain.

"Kelsey's Restaurants are the first major restaurant chain in Canada to adopt the designated driver program," commented Doug McDonald of State Farm Insurance.

The program was introduced to the insurance company last year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in an attempt to put the brakes on impaired driving.

State Farm has provided Kelsey's with designated driver kits full of trinkets promoting sober driving, and Coca-Cola has

donated the soft drinks.

The knick-knacks will be given out to designated drivers who go to the restaurant with drinking customers, said Ron Raymer, general manager of the Chisholm Drive location.

Mr. Raymer said Kelsey's is participating in the program to get involved in the community, and because he feels it's their "social obligation."

The program will be kicked off on Halloween Saturday night at Kelsey's in Milton. The festivities will include local band Barefoot.

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