

Reform candidates spurred on by 'no' vote

By SAL BOMMARITO
Special to The Champion

The Reform Party is poised to fill the political "vacuum" created by the nationwide 'No' vote in last week's referendum, said Reform Party candidate Dr. Allan Somersall.

"The Reform Party sees (the 'No' vote) as a need. Whenever you find a need, you create an opportunity and you fill it," Dr. Somersall said at a press conference held at the Holiday Inn, October 29.

Dr. Somersall, who'll represent the Oakville-Milton riding the next federal election, along with Dick MacDuffee, the party's Halton-Peel riding candidate, called the press conference to release statements on the referendum's outcome. Hugh Ramolla, the party's Burlington riding candidate, was also slated to speak, but failed to show. "We've been left in a national vacuum because the people who articulated 'No' haven't had the opportunity to articulate a 'Yes'. The reality is we had to say 'No' in order for us to say 'Yes,'" said Dr. Somersall.

For his part, Mr. MacDuffee called the referendum results "refreshing."

"It said democracy is alive and well in Canada," said the Caledon businessman.

Dr. Somersall said the referendum campaign has left the "establishment" frantic.

He stressed, however, that the Reform Party doesn't see the 'No' vote as a political victory for the party, but rather a political victory for the people of Canada.

"We don't take pride," in the 'No' vote, he said. "It's not a time to gloat." The 'No' vote illustrates what the party has been saying all along: that politicians have lost touch with the people, Dr. Somersall added. "Misreading the referendum shows (the Conservative Party) can no longer govern. They've lost, de-

facto, the ability to govern," he said.

Dr. Somersall stopped short of calling an immediate election, saying the Reform Party is willing to bide its time for the sake of the country.

People will see a new Canada emerging from the next election, because it will involve five mainline political parties, instead of only three, he said.

Dr. Somersall reiterated a statement made last week, that he deliberately kept a low profile during the days leading up to the referendum so that the events would follow their natural course. "We deliberately didn't try to organize a 'No' vote in Halton. We focused on the election and allowed the voice of the people to naturally come forward," he said.

If the Reform Party is elected, referendums will no longer be needed since the party advocates free votes for members of Parliament, added Mr. MacDuffee.

"(Free votes) would allow the constituents to be heard," he said. Dr. Somersall said the party's platform stresses fiscal responsibility above all other issues. Economic stability will lead to political stability, Dr. Somersall said.

Dr. Somersall said the Reform Party should "do well" in the next election.

"We have to get our message out. If we do that, I have no doubt the common people will gravitate towards the Reform Party. Parliament will look very different after the next election," he said.

Mr. MacDuffee said he hopes people choose the Reform Party because of their sound policies, not because they're fed up with the other parties.

"I hope it strictly isn't a negative vote. The Reform Party is trying to present a positive alternative," he said.

Former mayor Anne MacArthur among several women recognized

Former Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur has been acknowledged as a history-making woman by Lilla Watson on behalf of the local University Women's Club.

The informal recognition was part of Women's History Month in Canada which was celebrated in October.

Mrs. MacArthur was born on the family farm at R 3 Milton and has lived in the area all of her life. Fittingly, she taught history at Milton District High School for 27 years.

She entered politics in 1965, serving as Deputy-Reeve in the former Township of Nassagaweya — the only woman reeve in the township. In 1973 Mrs. MacArthur was Warden of Halton County, a position which was the forerunner of the Regional Chairman of Halton.

In the first years of regional government, Mrs. MacArthur served as Milton's only female mayor (1974-1976) and represented the Town on Regional Council.

Public life continued for the former mayor following her appointment to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. She served in that capacity from 1973 to 1987.

Mrs. MacArthur left her mark by pushing to pits and quarries legislation which controls the mining operations on the escarpment and encourages rehabilitation.

The retired teacher now manages her own antique

shop on Main Street, Campbellville.

This October marked the first annual celebration of Women's History Month.

"Women's achievements are usually overlooked in standard history books. Official history has focused on political, military and economic leaders and events, in which only men were believed to figure significantly. But the fact is, women had an equally valuable role to play in shaping Canadian society," according to a Ontario Women's Directorate press release.

Mary Collins, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women stated the month of October was chosen for the celebration as it was in October 1929 the "Persons Case" was decided. The historical case extended the status of "persons" to women and enabled them to be considered for appointment to the Senate.

One of the major players in the "Persons Case" was Nellie McClung, who once said, "people must know the past to understand the future."

According to the Minister, Women's History Month is meant to foster an appreciation of the past and present contributions of women in Canada — locally, regionally and nationally — and to recognize the achievements of women as a vital part of Canadian heritage.

Ms Collins appealed to community groups to honour local women who have made a special contribution.



Anne MacArthur

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Finance minister touts Canada's trade agreements

By PAUL MITCHISON
Special to The Champion

Finance Minister Don Mazankowski wasn't interested in dwelling on the defeat of the Yes forces in the referendum.

In a talk with the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mazankowski praised Canadians for taking the vote seriously and voting in such large numbers. And he wasn't even remotely critical of resounding No at the ballot box, nor did he predict dire economic consequences. "It was a large win for democracy and therefore a win for all Canadians... Now it's time to forget about the Constitution and get on with celebrating the Blue Jays."

He said Canadians based their vote on a strong knowledge of the sweeping changes contained within the Charlottetown Accord, and they didn't want politicians tinkering with the Constitution in the manner propose. Instead, he believes voters want the government to turn its attention to building the economy.

The finance minister reeled off all kinds of economic figures to convince his business audience that his government has done the right things to aid the economic recovery. The GST has replaced the old Manufacturer's Sales Tax, making it easier for Canadian companies to compete with imported products.

Inflation in Canada is the lowest among the G-7 countries, with the latest indicators showing it as just

1.1 per cent, the lowest since 1962. Our export growth is projected to be the highest among those countries too. "This is proof that free trade is working."

The country is poised to compete head-on with other nations in an increasingly high-tech world, and, he said, the North American Free Trade Agreement will make Mexico a strong market for Canadian products. "The only way to succeed is to meet and beat your competition in productivity and quality."

The government had doubled what it spends on job retraining, and must work to get rid of interprovincial trade barriers, which hurt the competitiveness of Canadian companies. "It's ridiculous that we could have dispute-solving mechanisms with the United States and Mexico but not within Canada."

Mr. Mazankowski took questions from the audience, one of whom wanted to know how much of the GST revenue has been applied against Canada's estimated \$40 billion annual deficit.

The finance minister said that because of the slow economy, the GST resulted in revenues of \$15.4 billion in 1991, which was less than the \$17.7 billion under the old Manufacturer's Sales Tax. Projections show that in 1992 there will be a further reduction in GST revenues. But Mr. Mazankowski predicted that as the economy improves there will be more than enough GST money to begin paying off the deficit.

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