

NO!

Residents breathe a sigh of relief as Quebec votes to retain its place in Canada

Here's how Stouffville residents reacted to a slim No vote in Monday's Quebec referendum:

Alex Barris, broadcaster and author: "My reaction is a sigh of relief, quickly followed by a wish that we will all get together and start straightening this out so it doesn't happen every 10 years. I think this country is salvageable and I hope it is, because it's the best country in the world to live in, but we can't just say the vote has been decided and expect the problems to go away. I don't know what we need to do, but I don't have great problems acknowledging Quebec as a distinct society and if we have to do something within or around the constitution to make them feel they are part of the country, it's worth doing."



BARRIS

Loretta Lavell, realtor: "I don't feel we're any further ahead because this doesn't give us a clear message and we've been (in this situation) before. It's ironic that on the one hand you have Europe pulling together after hundreds of years just as Canada seems to be falling apart."

Ken May, realtor: "It's just going to be a repeat performance in one, two or 10 years. I think you could compare it to a child that's threatening to leave home. History will tell you that the more you give in to them, the worse it gets. Somebody's got to put their foot down and tell them they have to decide whether they want in or out. If they want out, c'est la vie. Good-bye."



MAY

Harry Bowes, school board trustee: "I prefer the status quo, but I do have mixed feelings about their attitude (towards English Canadians). I hear some of their businessmen talk and they say that they are tired of paying heavy taxes and seeing their money go to the have-not provinces, but I don't think they know about the transfer payments that are going into Quebec; they get more than Ontario for things like second language education that they probably don't even use and I don't know that the people there are being given the right story."

John Lord, book store owner: "For once I find myself on the side of the angels. Hell's Angels, that is, who supported the No side. I think a No vote is the best thing for Canada because I would hate to see the country fragmented. The problem is, the people who are dedicated to the Yes side are going to start the whole process off again regardless of the vote, and I don't know any way around that."

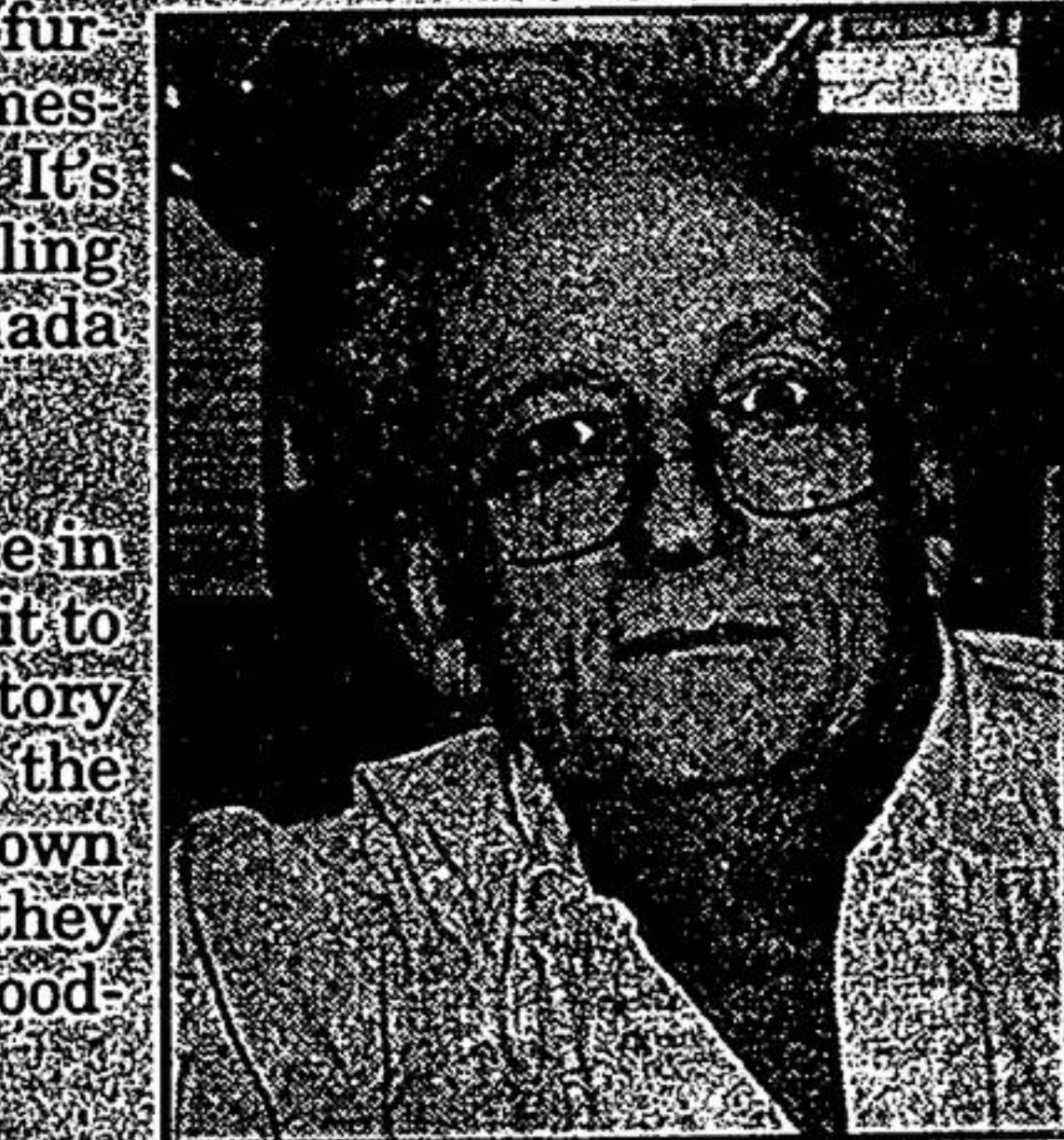


LORD

Glen Eagle, minister of Claremont United Church: "It's much better that we don't separate. I hope in time people will see the wisdom of staying together, but I think it's unfortunate people find it difficult to see themselves as distinct but equal. It's like a little kid who insists on leaving home - it doesn't matter what you say or do, that kid will always find some reason to leave."

Durham-York MPP Julia Munro: "There is now an opportunity for renewed federalism. I was quite worried for a while. It certainly was a nail biting night."

Jill Jones, employee of Inside Out Decorat-



LAVELL



MAY

Harry Bowes, school board trustee:

ing. "I'm pleased. It would have been such a shame to have the breakup of our country. It was scary. We get a lot of things from Montreal."

Mohsen Dastoom, owner of Two Four One Pizza: "Canadians must stay together. It's a perfect way. It makes Canada strong but only when we are one."



DASTOOM

Linda Evans, employee of Andre Kozak law office: "Voting 'No' was in the best interest of all. Quebecers are Canadians first and foremost. The people of Quebec could have done themselves a real disservice. I don't think they could survive alone."



EMMERSON

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson: "It feels great. Quebec wants to stay with us. We can now go back and revisit the constitution. Hopefully we can go forward and be a more positive country."

Councillor Judy Scala: "Obviously, I am delighted. We can now proceed as one voice and we can continue to be a strong voice in the world."



SCALA

Councillor Ivanka Bradley: "My heart was saying stay with us but I had a fear. Canada is New Brunswick, Manitoba, Quebec and all the others. Without one, it is no longer Canada."



PASZAT

Eric Paszat, vice president of sales and marketing for Stouffville's Cable Tech Company: "I'm relieved the No side prevailed. I don't think anyone in this country thinks a No victory like this means more of the status quo. It just means we now realize Canada is too fragile to ever allow the politicians to have all the control again. Canada must try to establish better ties with Quebec on a person-to-person basis so this will never happen again. How much do we really know in English Canada about Quebec's culture? Let's have a unity rally six months from now to celebrate the No vote. Bloc Quebecois leader Lucien Bouchard should be tried for sedition."

Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce president Rob Shannon: "The rest of Canada now wants to do as much as possible to keep Quebec in Canada. We have to work together to solve these problems now. The business community of Canada has to work together to keep this from happening again."

BIA president Sandra Stronach: "The No decision should settle the country down, and that it's now time to deal with the question of who should be opposition leader in Ottawa. I would look for whatever it would take to get rid of Bouchard as opposition leader. I think we're paying a traitor to pull apart the country."

Ed Hakonson, owner of Stouffville's Choko Design Inc.: "The No decision is good for business, and that we now need to get back to being the country the United Nations said we are. The narrow margin of victory reinforces the fact that everyone wants change. But not at any price. Jacques Parizeau's attack on ethnic Quebecers and anglophones who didn't vote Yes will end up as a positive for Canada. It will speed the demise of a parasite. That was the best thing to come out of (the referendum)."



STRONACH

Bud Chepack, farmer: "I feel happy they're staying with us. But they're already talking about another referendum. This is going to keep going on until they get their Yes vote. I feel they've given Quebec enough. Let's get on with life."

Legion Ladies Auxiliary president Gladys Clarkson: "That's great. I really think Canada needs Quebec and Quebec needs Canada, and they can still work together. I hope Canadians and Quebecers alike will make it their business to find out what it will take to hold the country together in the future. I don't think the average person has gotten into it too deeply. More of us (in the rest of Canada) should learn more about Quebec culture. Many have learned already, but many still haven't."