

**'VOTE NOW' states Mary Smith, Candidate for Reeve.**

"Please make sure your voice is heard," urges Mary Smith, candidate for Reeve in the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield, as she meets voters who have yet to return their mail-in ballots. "It's not too late." As the municipal election date of Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> quickly approaches, time is running out for voters in the County of Peterborough to cast their ballots.

Almost 16,000 people are eligible to vote in the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and approximately 140 households of those voters live in the city of Peterborough and own property in the Township. Unlike voters in the city who have until election day to make up their minds, voters in the township must do so earlier to guarantee their ballots are delivered by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

"I have seen more interest in this election than in the last four I have successfully contested," says Smith. "Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield is the largest and most diverse of the townships in Peterborough County. Our Township includes water access cottages, waterfront homes, rural homes, farms, subdivisions bordering the City of Peterborough, commercial and industrial properties. The mail-in ballot makes voting so convenient for busy folks, senior residents and the cottagers who live elsewhere." states Smith.

"I predict the turn-out will be higher than usual (in 2006 it was 38%). This is the third election where mail-in ballots have been used. The deadline for mailing ballots was Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> but ballots still may be dropped off at the township office at **1310 Centre Line of Smith, at the corner of County Road 18 and County Road 24 (292-9507)**. The Township office has a drop box, where ballots can be deposited securely at anytime, day or night. They can also be dropped into the Township office until 8:00 pm on election day. There are no polling stations," explains Smith.

"Some voters I spoke with on the weekend thought they had lost their opportunity to vote and were very disappointed. I want everyone to know that there is still time. If by chance voters didn't receive a mail-in ballot, they just go to the Township office and vote right there." states Smith.

"I encourage every eligible voter in our township to mark his or her ballot. Municipal governments matter in the every day life of everyone. The more people involved in election decision making, the more accountable and effective their elected representatives will be." states Smith emphatically.