

## **Mary Smith - Election Night Speech- Oct 25, Lakefield Legion.**

This campaign victory was definitely a Team Victory! Your victory! I ran for Reeve because so many people – like you - offered their support. And wow, did you ever support me!

Over 50 volunteers did everything from preparing for my Campaign Kick-off, fundraising, addressing letters to the non-residents, stuffing envelopes, driving me as I canvassed door to door, putting up signs, taking down signs, scrutineering on Election Day and doing all kinds of errands. Knocking on doors delivering my brochure, looking up phone numbers and of course, phoning, phoning, phoning and more phoning. Over 7,000 phone calls were made to households in our township. You spoke about me to your friends, relatives and neighbours and that made a huge difference. What an incredibly strong campaign we were able to run! I kept asking and you kept helping!

Many of the volunteers told me that this was their first time being involved in a political campaign and that they've told me how much they have enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to your support, Al and I were able to have a couple of days with all of our family home for a visit at the end of September. At this moment Jennifer and Laura are in Halifax and Graham is in Edmonton, but they are excited from afar. I felt I could take that time with them, because I knew you were continuing to contact voters for me. Thank you.

One very special person was the strength behind my campaign. He was the technical support genius, the sign campaign co-ordinator and the person I could trust to bounce ideas off. He has been from one end of the township to the other, down beautiful roads some of which he had never seen before. It sure was a good thing he retired

a year ago! Lets all thank Al Smith for the great job he has done in supporting me and the campaign.

I have always said that being involved in politics is a “privilege”. Running in an election is a gift. I am now even more current on the issues. I got to listen and to speak to so many people, many of them new to our township. And, they got to know me. I will be a better Reeve for it all.

Our new council will face challenges, due to a weakened economy and aging infrastructure. We do have a very talented staff and every member of council brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table. I am confident we will work well together and continue to fulfill our commitments to our taxpayers. We will be fiscally responsible. We will move forward on the objectives and initiatives we started in the last term, as a result of our new Strategic Plan.

I am committed to a progressive leadership style. I will work cooperatively to get the job done, for the good of the community! My leadership will set a positive tone for our Township, at the County Council, with our our neighbouring municipalities and our local First Nation.

I need to thank all the voters who have shown confidence in me and have given me this opportunity. I always say that politicians get their performance review once every four years and it is called “An Election”. Voters in all parts of this large and diverse township have shown support for me. In return I pledge to work equally hard for everyone throughout Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield.

We’ve made some history here this evening. Ennismore had a woman Reeve, Doris Brick. Now, the citizens of Smith and Lakefield Ward have a woman as the head of council, for the first time ever. And Janet Clarkson is the first woman Reeve in the

Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey. I believe more women need to take leadership roles in Municipal government, but lets celebrate these achievements tonight.

You, your friends and neighbours, must stay engaged in the public planning processes we undertake in this township. Council will not have all the answers. Please give your input when consultation takes place. I encourage you to get involved on committees and boards.

I would like to thank all the candidates in this election and recognize the contribution that Ron Millen has made to our township over the past 16 years. Congratulations to Andy Mitchell, Anita Locke, Sherry Senis and Donna Ballantyne as your newly elected Deputy Reeve and Council. Unfortunately Sherry and Donna aren't able to be here this evening, but I invite Andy and Anita to come forward and say a few words.....

I want to say thank you to the Lakefield Legion for allowing the use of this wonderful facility, to our piper/piano player Helen Batten and to Janice Wuerch and her assistants for planning this Celebration Evening.

Thank you to everyone for coming this evening.  
Take time to get to know other folks here and lets enjoy ourselves tonight!