

# THE VOTER'S VOICE

## Wellington-Halton Hills candidates meet in Eramosa

By: Vivien Fleisher

At the “almost” all candidates meeting in



CANDIDATE DEBATE: PC incumbent Ted Arnott, NDP Diane Ballantyne, Liberal Jon Hurst and Green Party Dave Rogers. - Vivien Fleisher photo

Eramosa last week, a tightly moderated list of 21 submitted questions kept the four hopeful candidates on stage hopping. One-minute responses were permitted by each candidate, and no interaction between them or the many residents who came out to see and hear what's on offer locally this June 7. Not present were “None of the Above” party rep Stan Smyer and Libertarian Pierre Nadeau. Incumbent PC

Ted Arnott, NDP Diane Ballantyne, Green Party Dave Rodgers and Liberal Jon Hurst all got the hang of the abbreviated response time after some initial adjustments.

First question: what was each candidate proposing to do about rural access to high-speed internet? Arnott had already addressed the issue in 2014, submitting a resolution that got some traction at Queens Park. Ballantyne replied that her party pledged one-billion dollars for broadband over 10 years. Hurst said his party had invested—via a small deficit—\$530 million into upgrading broadband, and another \$500 million to come. Rodgers' party would bring broadband up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, saying it was essential and “that's it. It has to be done.”

The subject of sex education did not come up, but the greenbelt did. PC leader Doug Ford claimed privately in February that he would open it up to development, and later retracted once it hit the media. The question for the candidates was: did

they support an expansion? Rodgers said yes, being the Green Party, but they recognize problems too, given small agri-businesses can't build secondary dwellings. Arnott reiterated that Doug Ford was not going to change the current boundaries, adding there all already many layers of protection for such areas. Ballantyne said they would strengthen the greenbelt by protecting prime farmland from speculators while expanding economic opportunities for families and local producers, with no plan to expand either. Hurst said his party is consulting, but mostly that Doug Ford does not have a handle on what the greenbelt does based on his private promise exposed in the media.

The rest of the questions ranged from MPAC to growth to minimum wage going to \$15 per hour—all were in favor except Arnott. Hidden Quarry saw the same three against, with Arnott focusing on a truck strategy in the face of the proposal given it's before the OMB.

## Councillor Bryan Lewis enters the 2018 Halton Hills election

Bryan Lewis has put his name forward as a Local Councillor (Ward 2 – Rural) in the up-coming Halton Hills election.

Lewis is seeking his sixth term since becoming a member of Town of Halton Hills Council in the 2000 election—Note: 2000 and 2003 were three-year terms. His re-election papers were filed on May 22 in preparation of the October 22 Election Day.

“By serving the rural portions of Halton Hills, I have enjoyed representing the villages, hamlets, farming communities, rural residents, along with rural entrepreneurs within the rural boundaries of Halton Hills,” said Lewis. “I have enjoyed working with and for the Rural Community Association that exist in Glen Williams, Hornby, Limehouse and Norval, along with the Halton Federa-

tion of Agriculture.”

Lewis has served on Boards within Halton Hills and outside the boundaries, such as: Conservation Halton and Ontario Good Roads Association. He has also served on most committees within the Town of Halton Hills jurisdiction, including: Finance, Corporate and Community Affairs.

“I have always deemed myself to be available to the public, working on their behalf and in their best interest,” added Lewis. “A simple plan going forward; I would like to continue to represent, work and enjoy my association on behalf of and with the rural residents of Halton Hills.”

Bryan Lewis lives rural and Bryan Lewis cares rural! Lewis can be reached at 905-877-5380, or via email at [bhlew@sympatico.ca](mailto:bhlew@sympatico.ca)

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