

# Making it official Albano is sworn in

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
Special to The IFP

Ward 1 Councillor Mike Albano is officially a member of Halton Hills Council after being sworn in at Monday night's meeting.

The Acton resident, who was elected to office during last month's byelection, assumed his seat around the council table following his inauguration ceremony.

"It's an honour and privilege to be here on council and to be part of the team," he said. "I know it will take me some time to get up to speed, but I'm up to the challenge."

He vowed to work hard and be easily accessible for local residents. He went on to thank his family, supporters, Acton residents who voted for him and all of the candidates who put their names forward during the election.

In addition to sitting on council, Albano will also serve on the Corporate Affairs Committee, Fire



**Mike Albano swears the oath of office at Halton Hills Town Council Monday night with family and friends attending, including his sister Connie Umbrello seated behind.**

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Department and Emergency Planning Committee, Active Transportation Committee and the Acton BIA.

Ward 2 Councillor Ted Brown welcomed Albano to council, joking that his presence "makes me no longer the rookie."

Albano is a retired school board manager of information technolo-

gy. He emerged on top of the group of seven candidates during the Sept. 21 byelection, taking home 24 per cent, or 298, of the votes. The byelection was needed to fill the council seat left empty after Councillor Mike O'Leary passed away in May. Albano will now serve alongside fellow Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst.

# MPP's Private Member's Resolution to be debated in the Legislature today

With Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott's Private Member's Resolution set to be debated today (Thursday, Oct. 22), support for the idea of taking Wellington County's Green Legacy Program province-wide is growing.

Arnott is proposing embarking on an ambitious tree planting program with the goal of planting 150 million trees beginning in 2017 to celebrate Ontario's 150th anniversary within Confederation.

"We have already received a number of endorsements, and I look forward to that support continuing to grow," said Arnott.

Those endorsements include the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Professional Foresters Association and NeighbourWoods on the Grand.

"I am happy to add my support for Ted Arnott's idea, which would be an entirely "made-in-Ontario" project with 100% local content and local impact, that every Ontario resident could participate in," said Laurent Thibault of Georgetown. "Today, the human foot

print is threatening earth's entire ecosystem, and some 250,000 people being added to the earth's population every day. So it would be fitting as part of the province's environmental agenda to launch a sustained effort to restore at least some of the trees that are so important not only to absorb carbon dioxide and offset the rising atmospheric levels of greenhouse gas, but also add to the beauty of the countryside."

Established in 2004, Wellington County's Green Legacy program plants over 150,000 trees across the county each year. It has become the largest municipal tree planting program in North America.

"We can build on the great work has been started in Wellington County and leave a legacy that will benefit our entire province for generations to come," Arnott said.

The local MPP is hopeful that MPPs from all parties will back his proposal.

"Expanding our tree planting efforts should transcend party lines," Arnott said. "I hope that this is an idea that all MPPs can get behind."

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