

# Tom Hill



Government of the new North Halton area, comprising Acton, Esqueping and Georgetown must be carried out by a uniform council, one that can recognize the problems and needs of the whole area, Tom Hill, candidate for mayor insists.

"Parochialism cannot be tolerated," says the 53 year old Reeve of Esqueping township, who hopes to have the opportunity to provide the leadership the new 13 man council will require to look after business formerly handled by 23 elected representatives (nine man councils in Acton and Georgetown and five man body in Esqueping).

"With a neutral mayor and three representatives each from Acton and Esqueping and six from Georgetown, all municipalities will stand a fair chance," Mr. Hill predicts. Mr. Hill emphasizes ratepayers in Acton should have no fear of having to help pay for a sports complex in the Georgetown area, nor should Georgetown residents worry about a reverse situation. Improvements or new facilities will be charged back to the ratepayers of the particular ward enjoying the benefits of them, he says.

He sees no reason why ratepayers should feel more aloof from their municipal government because of the reduction from 23 to 13 elected representatives.

### Repealable

"People were always able to get hold of their councillors before, I don't see why they won't be able to get in touch with at least one of their ward representatives at any time," Mr. Hill contends.

He is definitely in favor of deputations being allowed to present complaints and suggestions at regular council meetings, a practice which has always been carried out in his own township council chambers. He adds that council should invite ratepayer representatives to committee meetings to further discuss serious situations when the need arises.

In order to allow the greatest number of people to participate, Mr. Hill says that he will call for as many council meetings as possible to be held at night. He does not however, like the idea of rotating the location of meetings among Acton, Georgetown and Esqueping, claiming it would cause too much confusion with most of the municipal files and by-laws based in one office.

He promises applications for amendments to Esqueping township's zoning by-law, once it is approved will be dealt with promptly on a first come first served basis. There are several township residents seeking amendments.

### Recreation views

Recreation programs in the three municipalities should carry on as they are for now, he suggests. He would like to see persons from outside the area who are taking advantage of recreational facilities here charged higher registration fees. Residents of the area should be issued cards identifying them as such, he says.

Why is the reeve of a rural municipality running for mayor of a new area which includes two urban centres?

"I feel I have had considerable experience in municipal politics and I also have a desire to see the North Halton geographical area remain a strong part of the Halton region," Mr. Hill maintains.

He discounts the charge he may be lacking in knowledge of urban problems, pointing out he has had to deal with both urban and rural matters during the five years he has served on county council.

"If elected I will attend all council committee meetings to become better acquainted with problems in all areas," he adds.

Mr. Hill points to his experience in dealing with Queen's Park and provincial government cabinet ministers as an asset in heading any delegations he might be called upon to lead as mayor.

Company policy at his place of employment, Domtar Fine Papers in Georgetown provides for employees to take up to four years leave of absence for political reasons. He is prepared to work full time at the mayor's job. He promises to do the job to the best of his ability and warns that any candidate standing for office only because of possible monetary rewards is making a big mistake.

"If a person takes any of these positions just because of the money, he won't be much help to council. But if he's doing it in the interest of the community, he should receive adequate pay," he says.

Mr. Hill is a lifelong resident of Glen Williams where he lives with his wife Ida and daughter Eleanor. He has served eight years on Esqueping Council, two of them as deputy-reeve and the past three as reeve.

# Four north Halton mayoralty candidates

## Bill Hunter



A former Warden of Halton County, Georgetown councillor W.F. (Bill) Hunter has put his extensive political record and personal knowledge of the area at bat for him in his bid to be the first mayor of North Halton. He says he is prepared to give full time to the job if he is elected.

The biggest challenge, as he sees it, is to unite the three municipalities of Acton, Esqueping and Georgetown into one. Mr. Hunter feels his urban-rural ties suit him for the job admirably. He has a farm in Terra Cotta and commutes daily to Georgetown where he has been in business for many years.

### Sees similarity

He thinks the form of regional government isn't going to be that much different than positions he has filled on county council where decisions had to be made for seven municipalities. Now they will be made for only four.

However, he does feel the province will have to compensate the people of North Halton for the loss of industrial assessment when regional government is implemented January 1. "We've got to look for industrial assessment in North Halton and if we don't get it or grants, we'll be the poor people of the North," he says.

He feels a cautious attitude would be best to accustom people in the North to regional government. Therefore, he thinks sub-offices should be established in the three communities rather than having all the eggs in one central town office but points out this will be the decision of the North Halton Council, not one the mayor can make arbitrarily.

### Favors development

He favors residential development in Acton and Georgetown and estate planning of four or five acres in rural Esqueping, noting it will be some time before the region's official plan will be ready. He wants more roads and parks.

Apartments? Mr. Hunter has no objection to apartment developments provided they fit in with the topography and don't extend beyond five or six floors. High-rise? He's opposed to them, both on aesthetic and other factors.

Perhaps Bill Hunter's main election platform is the emphasis he puts on sports and recreation. He says no one in Georgetown has been more generous with funds for sport such as hockey, baseball and soccer than he. He's a past president and manager of the Georgetown Raiders intermediate hockey club and reluctantly gave up much of his active association in favor of financial participation when he moved to the political arena.

### More facilities

He's an advocate of more improved recreational facilities in all three present municipalities.

"I have always supported in many ways the expansion of active sport in the area in the belief young people want to be an effective part of tomorrow," he explains.

His record as a politician? Three years as Georgetown councillor. Four years as deputy-reeve. Five years as reeve.

Warden of Halton in 1968 and filled in temporarily as mayor of Georgetown when the late Joseph Gibbons died through his term of office.

"I'm the only former warden running for mayor," he notes with satisfaction.

### In clubs

Mr. Hunter has been a member of the Lions Club for 16 years (he has his Monarch's pen), is an honorary member of the Legion, and belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. He thinks his experience will give residents of North Halton the necessary savings on their tax dollar as they get into regional government.

## Bill Smith

"I know the responsibilities and duties the job entails and the time and effort required," says Bill Smith, candidate for mayor of the new area comprising Acton, Georgetown and Esqueping. "I have given that time to the municipality I represent and am now willing to give it to the whole northern area."

A resident of Georgetown for the past 15 years, Mr. Smith has served that municipality as mayor for the past three years. Prior to that he served eight years on council. He points out that he is the only mayoralty candidate, who has served on both the hydro and water and police commissions.

Mr. Smith says there is no doubt in his mind that from "Day 1" the responsibility of the mayor's position will be full time. "I own and operate my own business and have made the necessary arrangements to become a full time mayor, should I be chosen to represent the people of the north," he says.

As mayor he would hope to be able to bring out the best in the individual councillors under him, utilizing the abilities and personalities of each to the fullest.

He feels council should be obligated to hear any delegation that wishes to present a case, but adds that in the best interests of both parties prior notice of the delegation coming and the topic to be discussed should be given.

### Meeting policy

Press attendance at committee meetings perhaps should be at the discretion of the majority of council, he suggests, although he himself has no objection to the press attending committee meetings, except in cases of policy and personnel matters. Even then he emphasizes all decisions made in camera should be released immediately after.

Mr. Smith says he does not intend to become parochial in his outlook, simply because he lives in Georgetown.

"During the past 11 years I have represented three separate wards in the town of Georgetown and in every case I've voted on issues that would support the majority," he points out.

He says he would rely heavily on information from council representatives of each ward to base his decisions on local problems.

"Being elected by the people of all three municipalities, it would be my intention to represent the people of all three honestly and intelligently," he promises.

Area headquarters, he says, should be centrally located and in an area where, if necessary additional property could be obtained reasonably and quickly.

He would set up satellite offices in the municipalities which do not have the headquarters and advertise the days and hours during which he would be there to meet ratepayers.

### Planning stand

Mr. Smith feels good agricultural land in Esqueping should be protected, yet council should try to provide industry in the area in the proper place so that people may be able to live, work and play within the area boundaries.

In the field of recreation he would be prepared to organize a fact finding committee of citizens to assess the needs of the Acton area. He was responsible for setting up a similar committee in Georgetown where a swimming pool and recreational complex is to be built. He emphasizes that recreation covers culture and not necessarily just arenas and ball parks.

Council must make sure some sensible controls are placed on development, he says. He also suggests services should be charged back to the people of the particular ward or wards that are benefitting from them.

Mr. Smith says he will do everything in his power as a member of the Halton Region council to see that the transition from OPP police protection to regional policing will be gradual.

He hopes the elected council will do everything possible to hold the tax base in each ward similar to what it is now.

Mr. Smith persevered at meetings with provincial authorities which ultimately led to extension of the GO-Train service to Georgetown. That service begins in December and it is his hope it would be extended to Acton, if people here want it.

In conclusion Mr. Smith points out one major advantage of regional government will be that the three amalgamated municipalities in the north will have a larger voice at Queen's Park.

Mr. Smith is the owner and operator of Smith Automotive in Georgetown. He lives with his wife MaryAnn, son Brad and daughter Brenda at 8 MacKenzie Drive, Georgetown. He is 43.

A competitor has been defined as a guy who goes into a revolving door behind you and comes out ahead of you. —Leo Alkman, Atlanta Constitution

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## Phil Siddall



Phil Smith

Regional government? "It is important that you grab it by the stick and not have the stick shake you," says Georgetown councillor Phil Siddall, candidate for mayor in the new town of North Halton. He has a 16 point program which he feels outlines important goals when Acton, Esqueping and Georgetown merge into one municipality on January 1, 1974.

Rural areas should be retained for productive farming and recreation and development should be confined in the present urban areas. The growth of Acton should be encouraged as an equal urban community with its own character, he says with emphasis.

Planning and zoning changes? They should be made only after consultation with residents in the neighborhoods which may be affected. Mr. Siddall thinks discussion with residents is important. Established residential areas should continue to be improved with tree planting and road programs.

He is concerned better ways be found to dispose of waste and opposes the use of quarries for land fill such as had been proposed in the North Halton area.

Mr. Siddall feels a policy to provide adequate parkland near residential areas should be actively pursued and recreational facilities should be extended into neighborhood parks. He'd like to see pool and arena projects in both Acton and Georgetown encouraged and completed without losing more time.

Local offices should be provided for the convenience of taxpayers to pay bills, obtain licences, information and assistance, he says. "People shouldn't have to drive miles to pay bills and contact municipal staff," Mr. Siddall suggests the new headquarters would be best at the present Esqueping township offices' location on Halton Road 3. He feels this is the only logical place for the headquarters since there is a nucleus to start from, unlike Acton and Georgetown, and it is the most central existing point to the established urban communities.

He also feels strongly that there should be some visible sign that all three municipalities belong in North Halton without disturbing the unique characteristics of each one. The idea of a large complex at one central point from which everything is controlled, is abhorrent.

He is also concerned that senior citizens in all three communities should have strong representation and suggests the local municipality should be spearheading a co-ordinated effort within Halton Region and neighboring Peel to approach the province with a program of assistance.

He is against senior citizens being shunted off into a development where they will be shut off from the mainstream of the community. Senior citizen developments should be near stores and busy streets.

He is also an advocate of changes in the Planning Act, charging the present method of zoning and land use has led to expensive housing beyond the reach of many people. He thinks housing can be provided for twice as many people and has documented his ideas in a report on the findings of a survey and experimentation of low to medium density housing by the township of Chinguacousy which he submitted to the Georgetown planning board.

He criticizes the distribution of polling stations in Acton, especially for newer subdivisions, noting a similar situation in Georgetown had been solved by joint action by residents and ward representatives. It is a situation he feels could discourage residents who work out of Acton from voting.

The polling stations should be in the subdivision to make it easier for voters, he claims.

Thirty-eight years old, Mr. Siddall is a materials manager with Bundy of Canada in Bramalea, where his responsibilities include budgeting, planning and control, which he feels will be helpful for the mayor of North Halton.

He lives at 229 Delrex Boulevard, Georgetown, with his wife and family of three boys. He came to Georgetown from Toronto, has served on the industrial commission, and on the executive of a ratepayers' group which kindled his interest in politics. He was elected to Georgetown council where he has been chairman of administration, on the recreation committee and planning board. He was also active on the fire committee which ironed out difficulties between Esqueping and Georgetown.



Phil Siddall

## Submit brief

Halton County Board of Education will submit a brief to the Ministerial Committee on the Teaching of French but the suggestions aren't as enthusiastic in some areas as some Halton trustees would have liked.

The brief developed by a committee of the board was presented to the board at a regular meeting Thursday night. One recommendation was altered and another eliminated after discussion. Trustee Ernie Bodnar objected to two recommendations. One suggested that under reasonable conditions of availability of materials, competent teachers and supplies, French should be taught beginning in kindergarten. That motion was eventually watered down to read French "may" be taught in kindergarten where it is possible.

## Three charges

Friday at 5 p.m. a local man was charged with possession of marijuana. He appears in court Oct. 16.

Monday at 4 p.m. an out-of-town girl was charged with theft as a result of shoplifting in a local store. She appears Oct. 3.

Stolen car  
On Saturday at 12:30 p.m. a Kitchener youth was charged with theft when the car was apprehended as the result of a traffic violation. The car was stolen from Kitchener and apparently the youth has also been involved in other car thefts. He was turned over to Waterloo regional police.

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