

## ELECTION CENTRAL

# Seven incumbents ready for campaign

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 With the municipal election still two months away, seven of Halton Hills' 12 council members have already decided they'll try for re-election November 10.  
 Four other councillors contacted by The Herald for an early survey this week said they've yet to make up their minds about running again, but no one so far appears ready to give up local politics.

only Ward 2 (Esquering) council member who's made up his mind, Ward 3's (north Georgetown's) John McDonald has decided to run again; and Mike Armstrong and Marilyn Serjeantson will be back on the Ward 4 (south Georgetown) campaign trail.  
 Undecided are Pat Patterson and George Malby in Ward 2, Walter Biehn in Ward 3 and Harry Levy in Ward 4. Neither Ward 3 regional or Ward 4 regional nor Mayor

Pete Pomeroy could be contacted prior to press time.  
 Coun. Ross Knechtel said he definitely will be running in this year's election as one of two area representatives for Acton.  
 "I'd still like to make what contribution I can to a well-run town," he said, anticipating his second municipal race, "but I haven't developed any startling platform yet."  
 Rookie Coun. Terry Grubbe said she too would be seeking

re-election as a Ward 1 councillor this year.  
 "The kid is running!" Coun. Grubbe laughed, adding that she will soon begin planning her campaign.  
**WORKED WELL**  
 Ed Wood said that he would "most assuredly" run for re-election as Acton's regional councillor. Coun. Wood said he feels that council has worked well this past term.  
 Veteran municipal politician Russ Miller said he'll soon start campaigning as Ward 2 regional councillor, marking his seventeenth year of involvement in municipal or school board affairs.  
 Coun. Miller said he is "well-satisfied with the performance" of local and regional governments.  
 Marilyn Serjeantson said she will be running for her third term as a Ward 4 councillor in November. Coun. Serjeantson, who is expecting her fourth child later in the fall, said she would soon begin a door-to-door campaign in her area.  
 Coun. Mike Armstrong, who was uncontested as Ward 4 regional councillor in 1978, says he'll seek re-election again in this year's race.  
 Coun. Armstrong said that while the regional system in Halton "has run into a few snags" recently, he feels that council is starting to deal properly with a number of local problems.  
 John McDonald said he made up his mind to seek re-election during the summer but has not yet established his campaign platform.  
 "I'm pleased with the way council has functioned," Coun. McDonald said, "and I enjoy the satisfaction of following up on things that arise in council."  
 Harry Levy, once the youngest councillor in England when he held municipal office in Homechurch at the age of 21, says he hasn't quite made up his mind about whether or not he will seek a second term as a Ward 4 councillor.

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## Former contenders mostly uncommitted

By LORI TAYLOR  
 Herald Staff Writer  
 The apparent feelings of comfort that have prompted more than half of the town's incumbent councillors to seek office again November 10

seems justified thus far in terms of their potential competition.  
 Former contenders - some ex-councillors among them - told The Herald in an early pre-election survey last week they're either undecided or

just not interested in trying again.  
 Halton Hills' first mayor, Tom Hill, said he will not be running for office again. Mr. Hill, who has been suffering poor health recently, said he has been enjoying his retirement, driving around, doing ceramics and "watching the world go by."  
 "I was in office 13 years. Let them other fellows handle the headaches-I've had enough of them," he said.

In Ward 1, former regional councillor G.W. (Pat) McKenzie has decided not to run again for area councillor, and Dave Whiting says he is still considering, although he says the odds are 90 per cent against his entering the race.  
 Mr. McKenzie said he was a councillor for 12 years and it's time "someone else had a turn at it. I enjoyed it when I was there and now I'm enjoying it when I'm not there."  
 Mr. McKenzie is currently a member of the Ontario Housing Corporation in Halton as well as the Halton Regional Conservation Authority.

## Damage \$5,000 in kitchen blaze

Damage is estimated at \$5,000 in a fire Friday at a home on Maple Avenue in Georgetown.  
 Fire Prevention Officer Larry Brassard said the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring in the kitchen. The home is located at 327 Maple

Avenue.  
 Firefighters were also called out to two rubbish fires on August 26 and 28, at the Edward Street Parkette and under the White Bridge on Main Street north.  
 Damage was estimated at \$1,500 in a car fire in Norval on Thursday.



**PETITE PUPPETEERS**  
 Amy and Anna enjoyed the opportunity to meet the Disco Bunny last Wednesday at a puppet show in the Acton library. The children who attended the show met all the puppets after the presentation was over, and got to try a little puppeteering themselves. (Herald photo by Lori Taylor)

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# Reid's job to remain vacant as region searches carefully

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
 Herald staff writer  
 Tight competition on the job market and a feeling among Halton region's administration and finance committee members that time should be taken to find the right man for the job indicate it could be quite a while before Halton has a new chief administration officer (CAO).  
 During a committee meeting last Wednesday morning, councillors discussed the best and swiftest means of finding a replacement for former CAO Ernie Reid.  
 Mr. Reid, 60, announced his early retirement two weeks ago, ending a month of speculation about his future amid the furor of Halton's \$600,000 deficit.

The second victim of the deficit fiasco which exploded during a July 23 administration committee meeting, Mr. Reid follows regional treasurer Don Farmer, who told council a month ago he would vacate his post "to assume a less demanding role" within the administration.  
 Last week, the committee deliberated over the merits of finding a new CAO through newspaper advertising, professional executive recruiters or a combination of the two.  
 Regional personnel director Dennis Camm told the committee that at least four other municipalities in the province are searching for CAO candidates and the region could run into tough competition on the job market. Oakville Coun. Carol Gooding added that studies conducted in the U.S. show municipal administration jobs are not all that attractive.  
 Burlington Coun. Stephen Toth suggested that the region's own personnel department "go out and hit the bushes a bit" before council

embarks on an advertising campaign to find a CAO.  
 Claiming that the CAO's salary (Ernie Reid was collecting \$47,700 a year at the time of his retirement) is "awfully low", Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy suggested that the region may have to make the job a little more attractive.  
 "It's time the region grew up," Mayor Pomeroy said. "We'll have to pay the price if we're going to get the best person for the job." He added that he did not like the idea of "contracting out" for consultants to find someone to fill the position.  
 Regional chairman Jack Raftis supported searching for

a candidate using both newspaper advertising and management consultants. Mr. Raftis recalled, however, that an earlier search using consultants did not provide council with a "large application file" and was virtually "bankrupt of ideas."  
 Mr. Raftis pointed out that the bylaw which established the CAO position in November, 1974, "is very strong" giving the position the right to fire and hire staff. Mr. Raftis said he feels council has the experience and the expertise to make the right choice and will not be "hood-winked" by someone "with lots of credentials".  
 Mr. Camm recommended that the administration committee make use of the same firm which will conduct the region's management review study.  
 "It's essential that you have input from the firm," he said. "The consultants should give you a good indication of the kind of strengths to look for in the person you might hire." Mr. Raftis said that he hoped council would have bids to do the management study from consulting firms by September 17.  
 Burlington Mayor Roly Bird told the committee that his city's search for a CAO took two years and suggested that the region study whether or not it needs a CAO immediately.  
 "We've been flying by the seat of our pants since we came in here," Mayor Bird said, referring to the region's employment of a CAO to run the administration, in 1974. Mayor Bird suggested the region hire someone to act as head regional administrator on a contract basis.  
 In the meantime, regional solicitor Dennis Perlin has been appointed acting CAO until the position is filled permanently.  
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## Junior Miss contest highlights revived fair

Jim Barrett has the confirmed support of the Georgetown Fall Fair Board and is going ahead with his "Junior Miss" Halton Hills Beauty pageant October 4.  
 The Junior Miss Pageant will join several new features proposed for the fall fair, according to a press release from the Fair Board, including a baby contest, a pony-rama and a pet show.  
 At a recent meeting of the Fair Board, members expressed concern over the negative reaction expressed in 14 letters published by The Herald last week. The board voted unanimously however, to proceed with the competition, open to girls between three and five years of age because, the press release states, "cancellation of the contest would be a disappointment to those little girls already entered."  
 "It's a concentrated effort by a group of individuals in the community," Mr. Barrett said of the backlash which has labelled the Junior Miss competition "sexist" and raised questions concerning its ultimate effect on the contestants.  
 Mr. Barrett told The Herald Friday that he feels the

"general consensus of the community is good" and that the negative reaction to the competition is "an isolated incident."  
 "If I'm sexist to the point that I asked for a female contest, then I'd like to point out the idea originally came from a lady," Mr. Barrett said.  
**BURLINGTON TOO**  
 "We're not the only community which is proposing this kind of contest. Burlington is planning a competition in September with girls between the ages of six and seven years," Mr. Barrett said he is tired of being "labelled a lunatic and an idiot" and is concerned that the issue could have a damaging effect on his image in town. His critics, he said, "have taken a little fun contest and twisted it around to their own ways."  
 Meanwhile, the various service organizations in Georgetown appear relatively unaffected as sponsors of the competition. However, the Georgetown Kiwanis club has withdrawn its interest in the affair and a number of clubs are still undecided about their participation.

Georgetown Agricultural Society president Herb Dolson commented that fair board members were surprised at the angry letters, but decided the competition does not represent exploitation of any kind. New events were planned specifically to attract the participation and enhance the enjoyment of children and their parents at the 134-year old fair, he said.  
 "We were very happy when some new people came forward with their suggestions and volunteered to do much of the work as well," Mr. Dolson said. "It would seem very unappreciative on our part if we were to back out of this now. The board feels that we should carry on with their suggestions this year and see how they work out. The idea has apparently been very successful in other communities."  
 Mr. Dolson rejected the suggestion that letters from objecting residents - including at least one threat to boycott this year's fair if the contest is held - represent a majority opinion in Georgetown.  
 "My opinion is that the parent of any child being

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