Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

ELECTION CENTRAL

REGIONAL COUNCIL, WARD 2

Region council's 'busiest member' Russ Miller cites record of results

Probably one of Halton regional council's busiest members, Ward 2 incumbent Russ Miller believes the opposition he's facing in Monday's election has more to do with behind-the-scenes politics than it does with any possible voter dissatisfaction.

Acclaimed in 1978, Coun. Miller is at the centre of Halton Hills' toughest race, involving two respected names from Esquesing challengers Peter Branch and Dolly Moulden.

But as conscientious voters are well aware, he told The Herald Monday, last weekend, his record at the region shows his effectiveness on several fronts, most notably concerning the disposal of sewage sludge and the transfer of solid waste from north Halton to the south. As he points out, both issues are of

PETER BRANCH

major industry, Ward 2 region-

treating agriculture as

urban industrial growth.

substantial importance to Ward 2 voters.

Under Coun. Miller's yearold chairmanship, the region's solid waste management committee (SWMC) has convinced council that garbage transfer is a regional responsibility and not a town duty. Thus, Burlington and Oakville are helping pay for the temporary transfer facilities at the old Georgetown dump and elsewhere. facilities which Coun, Miller is optimistic about improv-

The committee, which had begun to flounder until its initial chairman out the post in disgust over council's failure to co-operate, is about to launch a source separation study which should greatly reduce the amount of garbage requiring burial at landful site by implementing region-wide the "Divide

and Conquer" style of separate garbage pick-ups Halton Hills now enjoys to some

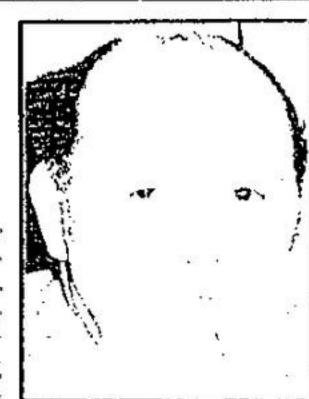
Coun. Miller was kept busy Monday, in fact, interviewing would-be consultants whom he hoped could give him some positive indication as to whether Halton Hills may soon have an incinerator which would reduce its solid waste even further. REDUCE VOLUME

Coun. Miller carned more headlines this past term talking about sludge than any other issue. Methods of disposal were questioned and finally corrected; methods of testing will be greatly improved when the region's new atomic testing device arrives; the Hallon Federatum of Agriculture is testing the value of sewage sludge as a fertilizer for various crops. But for an engoing shortage

of current disposal sites, the tuture looks rosy for sludge, Coun Miller acknowledged, If his work with the SWMC

has won him many new friends and much new respect at the region, Coun Miller's tirades against the onslaught of gravel trucks have won him substantial support among Ward 2 ratepayers along the Fourth and Sixth Lines. Town council faced several citizens' delegations before successfully resolving complaints over the operation of local gravel pits and the untimely passage of dumptrucks.

DOZEN BODIES A full-time councillor, Mr. Miller is involved in nearly a dozen separate bodies helping to run the region. Besides the region's health and social services, public works and SWM committees and the town's pits and



RUSS MILLER

quarries sub-committee, he serves on the Halton Region Conservation Authority, the Ballmafad Hall Board, the University of Guelphsponsored Rural Development Outreach Project, the board of directors for Hallon Centennial Manor and Die town's own general and Section 86 (residential assessment) committees

region, Coan, Miller is defen-Continued on page CX

Of the big issues capturing media attention at the

Wards two and three

A LOOK AT THE CANDIDATES

Part Two of The Herald's in-depth look at candidates in Monday's municipal election centres on those vying for Wards 2 and 3 sents. The Acclaimed, the incumbents and the challengers are examined one by one throughout Section "C"

this week, while next week brings full election day coverage as well as departing comments from three retiring representatives on the region's two school boards and town council. Stay tuned to Election Central in each week's Herald.

TOWN COUNCIL, WARD 3

THE INCUMBENTS

Biehn foresees light industry, 'sensible' apartments in the future

With a 30-year background as a Herald editor and publisher who covered town council meetings, Ward 3 incumbent Coun. Walter Biehn had little difficulty moving from the public gallery into a council seat tour years ago

Reviewing some of the issues in what amounts to a relatively low-key election, Coun, Biehn told The Herald last week that new councillors sometimes find it a -difficult adjustment at first to become merely one of 13 council members.

"You don't always get your way," he said, recalling his own feelings when council refused to buy the old Chapel Street school for \$125,000 from the Board of Education three years ago.

"It rankled a bit," admitted, "because it seemed to me to be such a good deal. But you can't keep harping about such things."

However, Coun. Biehn says be is pleased with the construction of the library theatre complex and the Silver Creek apartments on Park Street



during the last term of office. "I guess you could say that it was somewhat of a personal triumph when council avoided building the library in Cedarvale," he said. "I was very much against it for two reasons: Firstly, I felt that

building in Cedarvale would

mean using part of a park

better used as a park, and

secondly, I think the old library is a fine historical place. While he doesn't want to see

Continued on page C4

Region needs industrial approach to agriculture, Peter Branch says "Council should support and, so far, the score is pretty

ssues which come up from the rural aréas of the region and enhance the expansion of agriculture," he' said. "Council could benefit from an agricultural spokesman who sits down there in Oakville) and catches these things as they come up." Mr. Branch, a Steeles Aveme sheep tarmer who has held

managerial positions with Halton region should start Ontario Hydro and the provincial freasury department, is pleased with the work the al council candidate Peter Halton agricultural advisory Branch says, in much the counties has been doing to same way its business developmake administrators more ment department encourages aware of farming in the region. committee himself.

Listing the condition of regional roads and the use of "It's a good committee comsludge as fertilizer as major posed of farmers with various concerns facing Halton's farmoutlooks, because they are ers, Mr. Branch told The Herald Thursday that there has been a lack of support for stock, he said. "It will remain. agricultural concerns at the regional level

While the region may be a bit sluggish in implementing agricultural programs, Mr. Branch said he has "always received a cordial reception from regional staff, chairman private labs for testing and He added that he felt urban

ern numerpahties-Oakville and Burlington-are sympaththe to the needs of rural residents and farmers Nevertheless, Mr. Branch said he has "some grave

dwellers from Halton's south-

doubts" about the heavy metal content in sewage sludge used He recently joined the by Halton farmers to fertilize arable land

WHATEXTENT "I'm very concerned because I don't think all the facts different professionally, rais- have been brought out," he ing different crops or lives said. "The waste, which may contain arsenie, cadmin, lead viable as long as council and one, is potentially harmadopts its recommendations. Tal, but we don't know to what

Recently, regional council approved the purchase of an atomic emission spectrophotometer to test the sludge used

larmers can expect quicker test results. Using Steeles Avenue as an example, Mr. Branch said that council has "not taken a strong enough stand" to bring regionat roads up to an acceptable

travelling standard. But improved roads will likely mean an increase in the solume of traffic on them, be warned, and rural residents may have to be prepared to accept this in the future

on fields, which means the

region will not have to rely on

SAFERROADS "I feel that we have to try and make the roads safer and prevent loss of life," he said, I can't think of any higher priority than that." There might be lever complaints

about increased traffic, he added, if trucking firms made certain that their vehicles were in sound mechanical condition and didn't shed part

of their loads on the road.

Arguing that land should be

"conserved" and used under controlled conditions, but not "preserved" altogether, Mr. Branch unheated that the adgregate industry is something with which rural residents have to live . If Halton sbuts down its aggregate industry, he said, unemployment will result and "rents will go up in Mississauga and Toronto because of the costs of cetting gravel to building

"You have to look at this togically and we have to live with other people," Mr. Branch said opting for a well run aggregate production in the region, carefully rehabshifating the land after exeavatuns have been completed.

McDonald wants more emphasis on industry, land use planning

Generally pleased with town council's progress over the past two years, Ward 3's John McDonald reserves his sole criticism of its workings for what he calls too little emphasis on the urgent need to attract more industrial assess-

Along with his ambilious personal hope of transforming the tangled and poorly main-Jained Silver Creek Valley into a naturally beautiful recreational area for cyclists and hikers, bringing more industry to lown ranks as Coun. McDonald's chief concern for the coming term.

"If I have any criticism of the past two years, it's because



JOHN McDONALD we didn't do enough to bring in

some industry," he told The

Herald recently, "First, we need some serviced land. One thing that really ticks me off . and it probably stands as the definitive example of bad planning in this town - is the way land along Guelph Street on the Alcolt arena and Miraele Mart plaza side has been developed with commercial and institutional uses. It should have been left for industry."

Coun. McDonald pointed out that the late Rex Heslop Sr., the developer who doubled Georgetown's population during the late 1950s and '60s hy extending its residential area from the original boundary at Normandy Boulevard as

far east as Sinclair Avenue, had initially envisioned a commercial core on the triangular parcel bordered by Sinclair, Guelph and Mountainview. While Mr. Heslop saw the

Delrex plaza built there, a more recent council arranged for the balance of the parcel to the rear of the plaza to be developed for moderate to high-density residential use. On the other side of Guelph Street, Coun. McDonald said, early planners hoped for solely development. industrial Instead, the entire Highway 7 corridor has witnessed a commercial boom with a Continued on page C4

THE CHALLENGERS

Dave Barrager would poll opinion on questions before council

If elected to town council this Monday, businessman Daye Barrager says he'll occasionally survey public opinion on current issues by selecting Ward 3 residents at random from the phonebook, posing questions to them and giving them a few days to let him know how they feel before he casts his vote at council.

The Georgetown native told The Herald last week he'll poll his constituents on any important issue before council, but his own major concerns centre on municipal spending and pedestrian safety.

The past council's apparent readiness to hire outside consultants for any number of local studies annoys Mr Barrager, who is attempting to follow in his late father's footsteps by becoming a town councillor as well as a businessman.

Don Barrager established the family's still-prosperous cleaning business in 1945, bequeathing its ownership to son Dave 25 years later. Dave had already joined the Barrager cleaning and laundromal concern in 1963; he's now owner and president.



DAVE BARRAGER

And it's as an established businessman that Dave Barrager believes he can do the most good for Halton Hills taxpayers, who spend a great deal of money, he contends, so that council can pay "top dollar" for special reports it

"What have we got an engineering department for?" he asks. "Perhaps the town engineer's doing the best he can with what he's got, but maybe he's muzzled, too. We should let him earn his money

Continued on page C4 Keeping downtown core alive, vital one of Green's chief concerns

never uses.

Ward 3 local candidate Derek Green says he's very interested in the revitalization

of Georgetown's downtown Mr. Green, who is running

against incumbents John McDonald and Walter Biehn and challenger Dave Barrager, says he is sorry to see the police station leave downtown, "I'm very interested in keep-

ing the downtown area alive and vital," Mr. Green said. "The downtown businessmen and the chamber of commerce are to be commended for the steps they've taken.' Mr Green, who is a police-

man with the Peel Regional Force, came to Canada 25 years ago this month. He has been active in the scouting movement and in amateur theatricals, and is an "enthus-



"The thing that prompted me to run for office, partly, was the editorials in the local papers talking about the lack of candidates," Mr. Green said "As a policeman, the nastic supporter" of the cancer only public office I can seek is at the local level,"

Ward 2 area council candidates --page C2 Acclaimed trustees --page C7

Mr. Green has a number of high-rise apartment, he said. concerns which he hopes to become involved in If he is elected. A public transportation system in Halton Hills, or

with Milton, is one idea he would like to see looked into. "Many people have asked me about it. If the system couldn't be run by the town, maybe the two towns could join forces on it. Burlington and Oakville already have their own systems."

possibly a combined system

Road safety is a concern for a lot of people, especially parents, and particularly parents whose children have to cross Maple Avenue at Delrex Boulevard to go to school each day, Mr. Green said.

"I would also like to see an end to all studies they do now on everything," Mr. Green said. "It seems nothing can be done these days without a study by high-priced experts. I would like to see council do a bit more of its own research." He said he supports the

rezoning of the land for the Jehovah's Witnesses' centre, highway from his home. People in the area believe that such a development, if well landscaped and maintained, is preferrable to a plaza or a

LARGESCALE "Maybe this is the kind of

development we should be pushing for, instead of indust-Without large-scale advertising, I don't see how we can encourage industry to settle here. Burlington is losing industry that is moving closer to the airport, so I don't see how we can attract more industry." Mr. Green is strongly oppos-

ed to the Focal Properties Ltd. proposal for 1,740 homes south of Silver Creek in Georgetown, and says the development would be a "waste of farm-

"I wouldn't be opposed to more residential development. but I would like to see them use marginal land," he sald.

Conservation is another issue Mr. Green is interested in, and he would like to see council encourage a higher level of participation in the source separation program known as Divide and Conquer.

"I don't think the acclamawhich is virtually across the tions are a good thing," he said. "I think it's a combination of apathy and the current trend of not wanting to get involved, which I see a great deal as a policeman."

Regional deficit made Moulden advance her plans for candidacy Canada Day celebrations The regional deficit was staff to give the best advice

the catalyst which prompted Dolly Moulden to run for regional council in Ward 2. but her main concerns are evidence of poor management by the present council and other money-related Mrs. Moulden has been

active in political organizations at all levels of government for ten years. In her first try for office, she is running against incumbent Russ Miller and challenger Peter Branch. "Everything I've done has

been leading toward running for office, but I thought it was two years in the future," Mrs. Moulden said. "But with the deficit, I decided this year was it." Mrs. Moulden is a member

of the Limchouse Women's Institute. She originated the idea of the Limehouse

and chaired the committee for three years. She is a board member of the Halton Housing Authority and a member of the Land Division Committee. "Money touches every-

thing that comes up in this election," Mrs. Moulden said. "I know rural people who are paying \$150 a month in taxes, and what do they get for their taxes? A report by engineers on the road in front of their property called il a pre-road, and it's been that way since the '30s.'

LIKE BOARD "I see the role of council as being like a board of directors of the region, with staff supplying advice, suggestions and even recommendations, but council makes the decisions and bears the responsibility," she said. "By all means, you trust the

Ward 3's regional rep

they can, and you trust them to give you all the information. But there it stops. The final decision must be made by council, and it must not be a simple retification of staff's decision."

Ratepayers have expressed their concern about the regional deficit to Mrs. Moulden, particularly about the lack of a clear explanation as to what went wrong. PITS THERE

"I have had people ask if there was something shady going on. I've had people ask me why they haven't had an explanation. They're justifiably concerned."

Quarrying is an on-going issue in the rural area, and Mrs. Moulden questions whether area residents should be complaining about the inconvenience caused by the pits.

"The Indusmin pits and two of the pits on the Sixth Line were there when we moved in," she said. "We accepted it as one of the penalties of living in the country, like the smell when you live near a farm, Rural living has its disadvantages and you have to accept them.

"I think the agricultural community has to be maintained," Mrs. Moulden said. "I think we would be fools to let it slip away and try to grow food north of North Bay. But it was the farmers who sold us the lots."

The lot separations should have been stopped along time ago, Mrs. Moulden said. She suggests it is time the farmers got together and decided what they want. The farmers can't agree over how the agricultural land should be preserved, and until they make that decisi-



DOLLY MOULDEN on, they won't be able to present a united front to the

"I have an empathy with the farmers' financial and cultural problems, but I can see it from both sides."

The sewer surcharge issue doesn't affect Ward 2, which isn't on the sewer system. but Mrs. Moulden agrees with the mayor's position that to return to the chargeback system would defeat the validity of the region,

THE ACCLAIMED

Local, regional planning issues will dominate veteran Roy Booth's third term in office

Bennett overstepped his autho-

rity by endorsing the plan

before parts of it had been

reviewed by the Ontario

are thumbing their noses at the

whole population of Halton,"

Coun. Booth said. "The

residents were satisfied with

the aggregate proposals we

"The aggregate industries

Municipal Board (OMB),

had in the plan.

two years.

Ward 3 Coun. Roy Booth, acclaimed for a third regional term of office three weeks ago, predicts that planning concerns at both the regional and local level will continue to make up the bulk of his workload for the next two years.

Coun. Booth, the region's planning committee chairman and a Niagara Escarpment Commissioner, told The Herald Friday, that councillors and regional planning staff will have to iron out the wrinkles in the recently signed Halton official plan, a document already being challenged in the courts by the region's aggregate producers.

"We spent a great deal of time and preparation to get it signed," Coun. Booth said "and we based much of it on the proposed plan for the



Standard Aggregates Ltd. and

the Halton Aggregate Produ-

cers Association have since

challenged the plan, claiming

that housing minister Claude

But, Coun. Booth said, while

the case against the plan annoys him, he looks forward the official plan, Coun. Booth to tackling it as another said his committee has an challenge. Meanwhile, Niagara Escarpment Commission hearings continue, and Coun. Booth said he hopes the provincial government will

make a decision whether to

accept the plan within the next

"Phase one of the hearings dealing with overall problems with planning on the escarpment should wind up shortly," he said, "and phase two-sector hearings-will begin to approach problems with planning on specific sites in the

Despite some confusion in the past between regional staff and the planning committee over land severance applications and interpreting parts of excellent rapport with the staff and praised planning director Raj Mohammed for doing "an excellent job since taking over from (former director) Ed

Cumming" Locally, Coun. Booth said he thinks the Focal Properties Ltd. \$27 million lawsuit charg-

ing the town with breach of contract over a proposed 1,740 home subdivision in southeastern Georgetown will be a major issue facing council during the next term. "We're dealing with a lot of

conjectures about how much development the town's sewage treatment plant can cope with," he said, adding that the sewage study for Georgetown currently being conducted by Gorre and Storrie Ltd. will enable the town to take some conclusive evidence into court about its ability to handle additional development the size of the Focal proposal.

"I think we're really going to have to consider subdivisions on a single service basis," Coun. Booth said, "plping Continued on page C4

ELECTION CENTRAL