

ELECTION REPORT

Norton re-claims Ward 2 seat

Hilton will ask for vote re-count

Incumbent Ward 2 town councillor Peter Norton easily swept through a field of six candidates to re-claim a seat in the Nov. 12 elections.

But it may be a bit premature to give an official standing for the other town council seat.

The final results show Mr. Norton with 1,008 votes, Joe Hewitt with 877 votes and Ted Hilton with 859.

Mr. Hilton said he will ask for a re-count.

Like gentlemen, Joe Hewitt and Ted Hilton stood side-by-side as the poll results for Ward 2 were marked on a chart at Gordon Alcott Hall.

The Ward 2 candidates watched impatiently as their standing for the last and final council seat narrowed.

A beaming Joe Hewitt won the last seat by just 18 votes over Mr. Hilton. Mr. Hilton talked to The Herald later in the evening and he said he's decided to contest the final tally and ask for a re-count.

He said he heard there was one poll where ballots were not being counted if a voter only marked one candidate's name. Mr. Hilton will be contacting the returning officer and the town clerk-administrator about a re-count.

He is surprised that his competitor Joe Hewitt wasn't as strong, but he attributes that to his competitor's negative comments about the other candidates at the Georgetown and Acton all-candidate meetings.

Mr. Hilton said he didn't do well in

the advance poll because he was a late entry in the campaign. The other candidates garnered more than 100 votes in the advance poll, but he only received 19, he said.

For a campaign that has only been going strong for three weeks, he feels his standing is "quite an accomplishment."

Joe Hewitt said he knew the Ward 2 election would be a three-way race. The new councillor said he was given good support from voters in the Stewarttown and Pineview area. "I'm happy, but it was closer than I thought," he said. "Ted (Hilton) did a good job and he started late - he's a heck of a guy."

Rob Heaton, the fifth-place finisher in a field of six, said it's difficult to run where there's two incumbents to compete with. "I'm not surprised with Peter Norton's win. He had a good campaign."

Mr. Heaton felt the issues of Ward 2 didn't come out in the campaign because most of the concerns were region concerns. The regional councillor for Ward 2 (Pam Sheldon) was acclaimed, he said.

His youth, and not having enough contacts through the community hurt his campaign, Mr. Heaton said.

For incumbent Jake Kuiken, he felt he lost his seat because he might have waited too long to campaign. "Maybe Hewitt and Hilton worked harder than I did," he said.



Ward 1 town councillor winner Gerald Rennie shared his victory with fellow winner Rick Bonnette. Mr. Rennie made a trip to the Station Hotel with his wife and two children to congratulate the new regional councillor for Ward 1. (Herald photo)

Acton voters favor long-time residents

Long time residents of Acton, Norm Elliott and Gerald Rennie, drew from their good standing and connections in Ward 1 to become town councillors. That was the opinion of many observers at Acton's election base, the Acton Community Centre.

Ed Wood finished third with 481 votes, 436 behind second place finisher Gerald Rennie. Jim Kinnear and Maury Saad, the two newest residents of Acton, collected the fewest votes.

The only man to get more than 1,000 votes in Ward 1, Norm Elliott, said, "I feel fantastic to know I have the voters' confidence." Being on Acton's town council before regional government, helped him win, he said.

Gerald Rennie was at the Station Hotel to congratulate Rick Bonnette. "We (Gerald Rennie, Norm Elliott and Rick Bonnette) will be a great team," he said. Work with Acton's churches and getting to know many people in Acton during the 18 years he lived there were reasons Mr. Rennie gave for his victory. The popular English teacher even had five fellow teachers from Brampton volunteer to help him in his campaign.

Third place finisher, Ed Wood, who has lost the last three elections he entered, is retiring from politics.

"Three strikes and you're out," he concluded.

Neither Maury Saad or Ken Owen committed themselves to running in the next election, but like all Ward 1 candidates who lost, they said they will be monitoring politics in Acton and will be ready to speak out for the good of the town.

Jim Kinnear implied that in three years he will be running again. There was a party at the Kinnear home, election night, to celebrate the 388 votes the newcomer to town did get. "In the next three years more people will get to know me," he said.

Like Jim Kinnear, Maury Saad concluded the election was a positive experience for himself and the town. "Issues were brought to the people's attention. I think it's going to work to our advantage," he said.

Can scouts vote?

Can Scouts vote? No, but they were at the Gordon Alcott Hall to observe the excitement as the election returns came in. Members of the 1st Ashgrove Scouts were learning about the election for their citizenship badge. Brian Murdoch of the town's planning department gave a talk about how the process works.



STILL PALS

Mayoral candidates Russ Miller (left) and Mike Armstrong have a talk after final poll results were posted. Mr.

Miller won Tuesday's election and will return for a second term as Mayor of Halton Hills.

Women candidates top Ward 3 polls

Two new women councillors topped the Ward 3 polls, beating out incumbent Phil Carney.

Rookies Pam Johnston, with 1552 votes, and Betty Fisher, with 1415 votes, are the two local councillors for Ward 3.

"Isn't it terrific?" exclaimed a happy Pam Johnston Tuesday night. "I am just elated! I'm delighted I did so well for my first time."

The Georgetown-born and raised woman said she suspected she would top the polls, since residents told her she was their second choice during the campaign, "and I believe the second choice usually tops the polls."

She said knocking on almost every door paid off for her as did her past and current community work. For the past six years she's organized church services, banquets, fall color tours and entertainment evenings for local seniors as well as worked with the Canadian Cancer Society, Red Cross, schools and the Georgetown Memorial

Hospital. "I will try to do a good job and work hard at it," Mrs. Johnston said. "It'll be fun too."

Coming in second in Ward 3 was Betty Fisher, a rookie at the municipal level, although she's been a Halton Board of Education trustee since 1978 and is currently board chairman.

She said it had been difficult to determine how she would do at the polls this time.

"You couldn't call it," Mrs. Fisher said of the race for the two local council seats for Ward 3. "You just know that you can have splits all over the place with four well known people in the race."

She said her years as trustee probably helped residents identify who she was. Mrs. Fisher noted she's the second trustee to make the transition from education to local politics in the past seven years in Halton.

"This is a whole different arena. People will wonder whether you'll function with the same gusto in the new position as the old," she said. "It's a basic question that can only come through (be answered) with work on council."

Although she doesn't currently live in Ward 3, she said she chose to run in that ward because of the future plans for that part of town. Her family intends to move into the ward shortly.

Mrs. Fisher said she'll be fighting to preserve the uniqueness of Ward 3 in the next three years.

She said she worked as hard in this campaign as she did seven years ago when she first ran for trustee outside of her ward.

Although Mrs. Fisher says she'll miss education and the friends she's made through her work with the board, she's thrilled about the new challenges she's going to be taking on now.

Phil Carney, the incumbent, said he was surprised by the results. "I'm not surprised with Peter Norton's win. He had a good campaign."

Mr. Carney felt the issues of Ward 3 didn't come out in the campaign because most of the concerns were region concerns. The regional councillor for Ward 3 (Pam Sheldon) was acclaimed, he said.

His youth, and not having enough contacts through the community hurt his campaign, Mr. Carney said.

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Two new faces in Ward 4

Two fresh faces will be learning the ropes in Ward 4, following the results of Tuesday's election. Al Cook and Lillias Bowman are the new Ward 4 councillors.

"I'm very excited. Elated is the proper terminology," salesman Al Cook said from a Tuesday night party at Cedar Springs Motel. Mr. Cook said he got 1,704 votes because people saw him as being prepared to listen to their concerns. Although he didn't have a large group of people helping him in his campaign, Mr. Cook said they were all "good quality people I trusted and felt would help me in every capacity."

The support of his family and

children helped, the new councillor said. "I think everyone who ran in Ward 4 was very fair and had a positive attitude. There was no, in any way, trying to humiliate each other," Mr. Cook said.

Fellow candidate Lillias Bowman was just as pleased about getting a seat on town council, Tuesday Night. "I'm fine, fine, well gee, we got in, we did it," Mrs. Bowman said happily from her home. "You know, actually, I was happier some other people got in that I wanted to get in." She said she was very glad when 8 p.m. came.

"I felt one way or the other, it's

over," Mrs. Bowman said. "I must say, I do feel that everybody can't win. It's a tremendous amount of work. I had no idea it was this much."

This was Mrs. Bowman's first try at local politics and she said she got nervous Tuesday when she took some voters to the polling station. "When I saw people actually voting, I almost wanted to grab them and tell them to vote for me," she laughed.

The rookie councillor isn't sure her name garnered her 1,572 votes because of her stance on the issues. "I really think in the end it boils down to name recognition.

Her opponent Rud Whiting attributed his loss to Mrs. Serjeantson's past record as well. "They (public) just didn't want a change. They were pleased with Marilyn's representation. I think that's what happened," Mr. Whiting said.

"I knew it could be close and could go either way," the Georgetown real estate broker said. "In the last week of the campaign I could see it was going to be a tight race."

He said he ran a good campaign and noted Mrs. Serjeantson did also. Mr. Whiting was pleased there was no mud-slinging in the campaign, he said.

Although this is his second defeat in the political arena, Mr. Whiting said he's still interested in trying to get back in again.

"I've still got an interest in politics. I enjoyed getting back into it, the campaign and knocking on doors and meeting people. However, I didn't particularly enjoy the results," he confessed.

Serjeantson defeats former MP

The biggest contest in Ward 4 was the one between Marilyn Serjeantson and Rud Whiting. Incumbent Marilyn Serjeantson managed to beat out the former provincial member of parliament for the regional council seat, leading right from the start.

When the results came in from the first two polls, Mrs. Serjeantson was leading by 28 votes, 98 to 70. The margin continued to grow, so that by the time five polls were counted, it was 256 votes for Mrs. Serjeantson to 212 for Mr. Whiting.

The difference became more apparent when 16 polls had reported.

Mrs. Serjeantson had 1,217 votes to Mr. Whiting's 838. There were only six polls left to report by then.

The final tally was 1,555 for Mrs. Serjeantson and 1,104 for Mr. Whiting. "I had to work very hard. I canvassed every door," the incumbent said. "I plan to work really hard and do what's best for our town, and I feel a lot of people felt I had worked hard in the past and that was one of the reasons I won."

Mrs. Serjeantson said her performance as a responsible representative paid off in this election. She's been a town councillor since February 1977.

Her opponent Rud Whiting attributed his loss to Mrs. Serjeantson's past record as well. "They (public) just didn't want a change. They were pleased with Marilyn's representation. I think that's what happened," Mr. Whiting said.

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