

News at a Glance

Candidates integrity questioned as municipal election looms

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

A requirement to defend their integrity instead of their position on the issues was the first order of business candidates responded to during Wednesday's Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce sponsored all-candidates meeting at Georgetown District High School.

Georgetown resident Ed Spicer, one of the 250 people attending the meeting, asked all Ward 3 candidates if they had any outside interest that could conflict with being an elected official?

Ward 3 Town councillor candidates Tom Politi, Anne Currie, Bill Hyde, and Gail Rutherford, all said no, pointing to their current occupations as proof.

Mr. Emmerson said he was semi-retired while Ms. Currie said is retired.

Mr. Politi said he works for a Brampton cement making company, while Ms. Rutherford said she is a part time teacher at a local school.

Both Ward 3 Regional Councillor candidates, Bill Hyde and Pam Johnston also said they had no conflict.

Mr. Hyde said he is an engineering consultant and in this capacity has many projects on the go. However, none of these conflict with being an elected official and if a conflict ever did arise, Mr. Hyde said he would declare it.

Ms. Johnston also said she has no conflict in her capacity as a part time college teacher, but said she would declare a conflict if there ever was one.

Having cleared that up, the Ward 3 candidates were questioned on whether they would support the construction of an Acton arena to begin in 1993.

While Mr. Emmerson and Ms. Johnston expressed confidence the arena would go ahead, the other candidates were more hesitant.

All said they favored the idea of an arena going ahead but approval will ultimately depend on available money and how it measures up as a priority against other Town needs.

Ms. Currie had the most intriguing response, saying, "if you plan to buy a car but the fridge breaks down you don't buy the car." Meaning the arena should go ahead as forecasted in the 1992 budget unless something comes up that must be dealt with immediately.

Asked to outline their vision for Georgetown's downtown core, Ms. Rutherford said revitalization of this area is a major concern.

"I see development as playing a major role in order to attract people to the downtown core."

With more people shopping in the area, an open market could then be established, she said.

Mr. Politi said improvement to the downtown area primarily rests with the store owners.

The merchants need to brighten

up their stores and try to bring their prices in line with the competition, he said.

Mr. Emmerson said it will take a cooperative effort on the part of the entire community to revitalize the area.

Not surprisingly, Ward 3 candidates were asked to state their position on the proposal to build two high rise condominiums on Maple Avenue beside the North-Halton Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Politi, Ms. Rutherford, Mr. Emmerson, Mr. Hyde all said they wouldn't accept any development other than single family homes.

Ms. Johnston stated the condominium proposal has been withdrawn and currently there is no development proposal for the property before the Town.

She said her vote on any future development proposal for the property will depend on the proposal submitted.

"I make my decision only after I have all the information in front of me," said Ms. Johnston.

On the issue of sidewalk snow removal, Bill Hyde said Town residents should be required to clear that portion of the sidewalk that borders their property.

Ms. Johnston said the Town previously investigated the possibility of introducing the appropriate bylaw to force people to clean their sidewalks, but it was determined people would be unwilling to take on the responsibility.

She continued by saying over the past few years the Town has increased the number of sidewalks it clears. It would be too expensive to clear all sidewalks, she said.

Asked to identify a major concern in the Town, Ward 4 candidates focused on either planning, growth, or water.

Regional councillor candidate Al Pilutti said his major concern is Georgetown South.

To the applause of many, Mr. Pilutti questioned why Georgetown South was planned as it was.

He objects to there being, at points, only a 50 acre buffer between residential and industrial zoned lands.

The Georgetown South plan should be reviewed to allow for a minimum of at least a 100 acre buffer between the two zones, he said.

One of Mr. Pilutti's opponents, Linda Walton, said she wants to ensure Georgetown doesn't grow too fast. That means, said Ms. Walton, the projected doubling of Georgetown's population over 20 years is too fast.

Regional candidate Marilyn Serjeantson said the town has implemented a good plan to accommodate the expected population increase without jeopardizing the existing community feeling.

She points to the fact that new development is supposed to go to the outlying areas of the Georgetown urban boundary and in and around the hamlet areas.

Ms. Serjeantson predicted population growth would increase no faster than three per cent annually, which doesn't represent rapid growth.

Ward 4 Town councillor candidate Peter Norton said his major concern is water. Without water there can be no development, said Mr. Norton.

Mr. Norton's opponent, Al Cook said growth is a concern, but as long as Georgetown's population doesn't grow beyond 40,000 over the next 20 years, the Town's community feeling won't be negated.

Ward 4 Town councillor candidate Ron Chatten also had no objection to the population projections because they don't represent rapid growth. Some growth is needed, said Mr. Chatten, to prevent the community from stagnating.

On the question of industrial growth, candidates were asked how they would attract industry to the area?

Mr. Pilutti said he would establish an industrial commission as existed in the 70's. Since the dismantling of the commission, there has been very little industrial growth, he said.

Ms. Walton said her work as a consultant for various government agencies and companies means she has the experience needed to walk into the boardrooms and sell the community.

Ms. Walton said she wants to try and bring the Ontario Archives to the community.

While defending the Town's past achievements in attracting such industry as Armbró to the area, Ms. Serjeantson went on to say the 400 acres currently zoned industrial in Georgetown South must be serviced in order to attract more industry.

Mr. Chatten said his experience as an administrator will enable him to attract business to the area, while Mr. Norton said his 20 years as a salesman gives him the tools to sell the Town.

Mayorality candidates Russ Miller and Rob Barlow got off comparatively easy compared to the rest of the candidates.

However, they were asked what they mean when they say they want to preserve the character of Halton Hills.

Mr. Miller said Halton Hills population must not be permitted to grow beyond 40,000 people.

He went on to say he opposes a pipe being brought up from Lake Ontario to provide water to service residential growth.

Mr. Barlow said the Town's character will be preserved by rejecting spot development. As well, high rises shouldn't be allowed, and any new buildings that go up should be in keeping with the existing architecture, he explained.

Mr. Barlow also said he opposes a pipe being brought up from Lake Ontario to service growth in town.

Asked if he would support Halton Hills disassociating with the Greater Toronto Area, Mr. Miller said no. It's better to be a participant in the GTA to ensure Halton Hills' needs are protected.

Mr. Barlow said he would consider the idea if he had residents' support.

Acton fire hall gets green light

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

Construction on the new Acton Fire Hall at the corner of Highway 7 and Churchill Road will now go ahead as a result of Halton Hills Council giving the project final approval during a special meeting Tuesday.

In a recorded vote, all councillors but Rob Heaton supported the \$1,082,000 construction price tag.

Coun. Al Cook was not present at the meeting and therefore didn't vote.

Coun. Heaton left the meeting before he could be questioned on his vote. As well, he couldn't be reached for comment at press time.

Council had deferred deciding on the fire station because the project's cost is \$52,000 over the original budgeted amount of \$966,760.

The approved construction cost was recommended after \$56,000 was cut from the originally estimated construction cost.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cun-

ningham said another \$7,000 could have been cut from the construction cost while still ending up with a suitable building.

The \$7,000 was allocated to build a second entrance way off Highway 7. The primary entrance will be located on Churchill Road.

A majority of councillors voted to keep this expenditure in the budget after Chief Cunningham said the Highway 7 entrance would be used for emergency purposes if the Churchill Road exit was ever blocked.

Acton Councillors Rick Bonnette, Norm Elliot, Gerald Rennie and Georgetown Coun. Pam Johnston all supported the more expensive of two heat and air conditioning systems be supported.

The councillors worried the cheaper recommended system may be inferior to the more expensive one.

The difference in price between the two systems is \$5,000.

A majority of councillors opposed the more expensive system after receiving assurances the cheaper system was very reliable.

Position clarified

Ward 3 local candidate Anne Currie contacted the Herald Thursday to clarify her position on apartments in response to a letter in the People's Forum under the headline, "Remarks disdained", appearing in the Nov. 6 edition.

Ms. Currie said, "I have always said apartments are not only needed in Town, but are an attractive welcome addition. I no doubt will live in one by choice in a few years, perhaps in the same building as the writer, (Chris McMahon)."

Ms. Currie explains, in Ward 3 one of the most suitable sites for an apartment building would be the former Halton Hills Hydro Commission building on Mill Street in

Georgetown.

Another appropriate site in Ward 3 would be the area overlooking the Glen and the whole escarpment, she said.

"This would be an attractive site for apartments, and sadly now houses an old vacant industrial building. Certainly I'd prefer it be rezoned for industry, but since that seems unlikely at this time, apartments or any housing would be an alternative," said Ms. Currie.

"In redeveloping any areas nowadays, conditions are stringent and demand all the attractive landscaping, lighting and amenities offered in the existing new buildings," she said.

Voter eligibility

Eligible voters for the upcoming Nov. 12 municipal election should not despair if they have yet to receive official notification that their names are included on one of the voting lists corresponding to one of the four local Wards.

Voters can still have their names included on the appropriate voter's list by submitting their name to the Town Clerk, Janet Lunn-Stewart, by election day, Nov. 12 at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

People are only eligible to have

their name added to a voter's list if they can provide proof showing they are at least 18-years-old, they are property owners or renters in Town, and they are recognized Canadian citizens.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

We goofed

On the front page of the Wednesday, Nov. 6 edition of the Halton Hills Herald the list of municipal candidates mistakenly didn't include Ward 4 Regional Councillor candidate Linda Walton. Also, the name of Town Council Ward 2 candidate, Robert Heaton was misspelled.

The Herald regrets the errors and apologizes for any inconvenience they may have caused.

In the story entitled, "Tame candidates face the voters," appearing in the Wednesday Nov. 6 edition of the Halton Hills Herald Russ Miller was quoted incorrectly as saying, "As far as I am concerned you should be paid off with taxpayers' money." The quote should have read, "As far as I am concerned you shouldn't be paid off with taxpayers' money."

The Herald regrets the error and apologizes for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

*ACCLAIMED	Halton Hills Regional Councillors	Halton Hills Town Councillors	Hydro Commission	Halton Bd. Education Trustees	Catholic Board Trustees	Mayor
WARD 1 Acton	Rick Bonnette Ed Wood	Gerald Rennie Norm Elliott Claude Morrissette	Roger Haggett Dorson Frizzell	Dave Whiting Rev. Craig Cribar William Bell David Colvin	(All of Halton Hills) Irene McCauley (English Representative) * Ken Norman (French Representative)	Russ Miller Bob Barlow
WARD 2 Esquesing Township	Joe Hewitt Bill Robson	Alf Spence Rob Heaton Kathy Gastle	Joe Rinder Murt Allison	Dave Whiting Rev. Craig Cribar William Bell David Colvin		
WARD 3 Georgetown North	Pam Johnston Bill Hyde	Grant Emmerson Tom Politi Anne Currie Gail Rutherford	* Jim Fisher	* Dick Howitt		
WARD 4 Georgetown South	Marilyn Serjeantson Al Pilutti Linda Walton	Al Cook Peter Norton Ron Chatten	* Bill Smith	* Dick Howitt		