

# News at a Glance

## Region Chairman Pomeroy weighing his options

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Now that a new Halton Regional Council has been elected, the next order of business will be to determine who will sit as Regional Chairman during the upcoming three-year term.

Contacted Wednesday, Norval resident Peter Pomeroy, the current Regional chairman, said he is undecided on whether to attempt to keep his position once the new Regional Council officially takes office Dec. 4.

The Regional Chairman position is open to any eligible voter in Halton. Those wanting to run for the position declare their candidacy during the Dec. 4 inaugural Regional Council meeting at which time a vote is held among Regional councillors to determine the winning candidate.

Mr. Pomeroy said he won't decide on his future until he has had time to talk to all members of the new council concerning the ongoing police investigation into possible wrongdoings by Halton Region elected and non-elected officials.

The investigation involves a combined forces unit comprised of officers from Ontario Provincial Police, Metropolitan Toronto Police, and York Regional Police.

Although police won't release any details of the investigation, it is known the special unit, known as Project 80, focuses part of its attention on possible connections between developers and politicians.

On the same topic, Chairman Pomeroy was questioned on whether he thought recent publicity surrounding the investigation contributed to the loss of Oakville



PETE POMEROY

Regional councillor John Gramham in Tuesday's Oakville municipal election?

Recently Mr. Gramham has expressed concern that illegitimate promises were made concerning future water and sewage servicing of the Arbor Valley Estate property in Georgetown.

Mr. Gramham has acknowledged on several occasions he has been interviewed by members of Project 80.

Mr. Pomeroy said publicity surrounding Mr. Gramham and the investigation could have contributed to his election loss in a minor way.

Some of Mr. Gramham's constituents in South East Oakville probably wondered whether he was doing enough for his Ward when he was so involved in an issue that deals more with Georgetown, said Mr. Pomeroy.

Mr. Gramham couldn't be reached

for comment at press time.

Concerning the results of the local election, Mr. Pomeroy, being a Ward 2 resident, said he and his family threw their support behind Kathy Gastle for Town councillor. Ms. Gastle and Robert Heaton beat out Alf Spence for the ward's two local councillor seats.

"I'm pleased that the political hotbed known as Norval produced a councillor in Ms. Gastle, said Mr. Pomeroy.

"Norval has consistently produced candidates at all levels of government," added Mr. Pomeroy.

Ms. Gastle and her family have been friends of our family for more than 60 years," he continued.

The Chairman said he was surprised Ms. Gastle received the most votes of all local candidates in her ward, especially since she entered the election race quite late.

"Obviously the Ward was in the mood for change," said Mr. Pomeroy.

He was sorry Mr. Spence lost, but added, "in an election somebody wins and somebody loses."

On the topic of Bill Robson's victory over incumbent Joe Hewitt for Regional Councillor in Ward 2, Mr. Pomeroy commented, "there was a strong feeling at the Region it could be a close race and could go either way."

"I'll miss Joe, he brought decency and sensitivity to the Region, but obviously not everyone felt that way," said Mr. Pomeroy.

The chairman then went on to say, "I know Mr. Robson and although I have never worked with him, I'm sure we will be able to work together."

## Election losers an upbeat group

A survey of those local unsuccessful candidates not interviewed election night, shows them to be a relatively upbeat group despite their fate.

Ed Wood, who lost handily to incumbent Rick Bonnette for the position of Ward 1 Regional councillor, said he wasn't as disappointed in the result as in the low voter turnout.

"It seemed when I was campaigning there seemed to be interest, but numbers didn't show this at the polls," he said Wednesday.

According to unofficial election results, Rick Bonnette received 1,393 while Mr. Wood only received 372 votes.

The total number of votes cast was 1,793, which represents 35 per cent of the Ward's eligible voters. Mr. Bonnette won the last election by acclamation so the voter percentage turnout during that election went unrecorded. However, the average percentage turnout throughout Halton Hills in the last election was almost 40 per cent.

Mr. Wood blamed the relatively low voter turnout on public apathy instead of the rainy weather Tuesday.

Describing Mr. Bonnette as a good choice, Mr. Wood continued, saying there was nothing wrong with any of the candidates elected in Acton.

"It was the best campaign I have ever run," he added.

Mr. Wood said he had hoped to receive more votes to send a message to council it needs to be more financially responsible.

For the position of Town councillor in Ward 1, newcomer Claude Morrisette lost out to incumbents Norm Elliott and Gerald Rennie.

Mr. Morrisette received 360 votes compared to 1,383 for Mr. Elliott and 1,152 for Mr. Rennie.

Mr. Morrisette took his defeat in stride saying, "this was my first time running so there is no use complaining."

He did, however, express some disappointment at not receiving more votes.

"I didn't expect to win but I expected to receive a higher number of votes," he commented.

Mr. Morrisette predicted he would have received more votes if the ballot was less confusing to the electorate.

A lot of people only voted for one local candidate, not realizing they could vote for two candidates, he suggested.

Asked if he plans to run in the next election, Mr. Morrisette replied, "it's too early to say."

If he does choose to run again, Mr. Morrisette said he will recruit people to help him in his campaign.

In Ward 2, local Town councillor incumbent Alf Spence lost to Rob Heaton and newcomer Kathy Gastle.

Mr. Spence said he wasn't surprised Ms. Gastle was elected because he was promoting her during the campaign as the second choice next to him.

Mr. Spence explained his loss to Mr. Heaton, saying he didn't have the support of the local protest groups.

In Ward 3, Regional councillor candidate, Bill Hyde lost to incumbent Pam Johnston by a 583 vote margin.

Ms. Johnston received 1,706 votes while Mr. Hyde collected 1,123 votes.

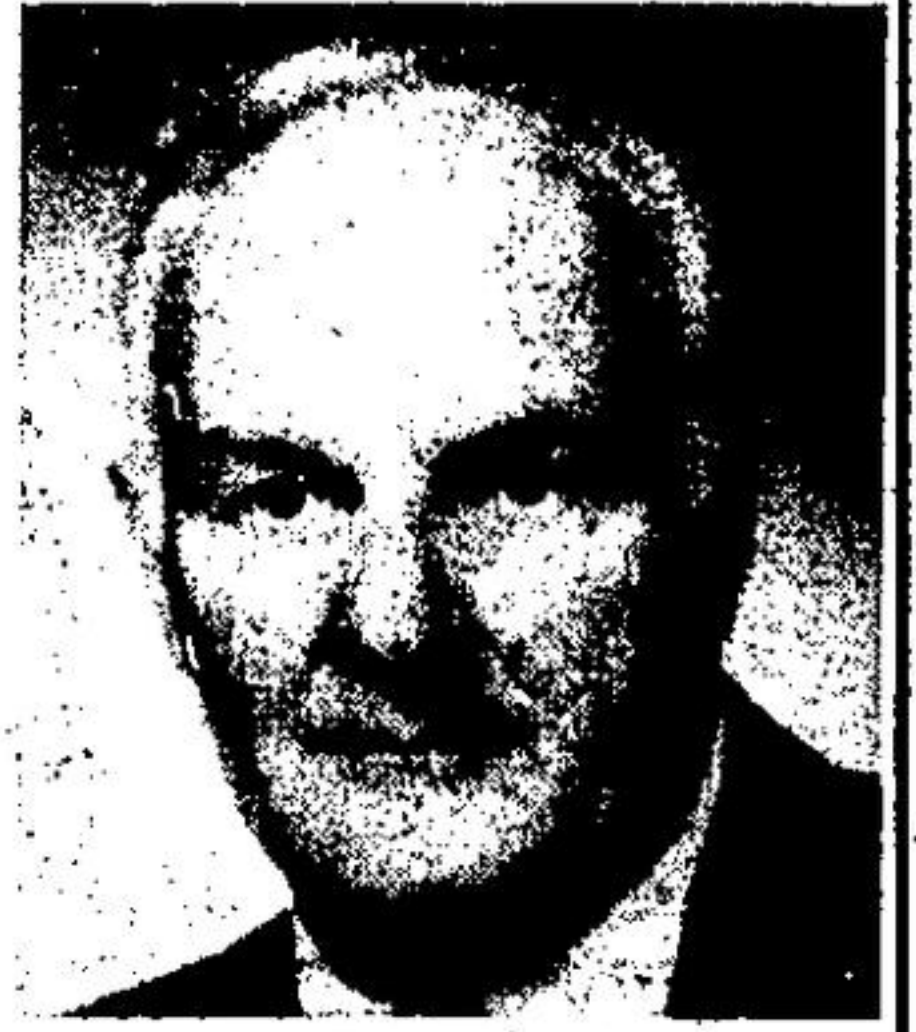
"I thought the populace was much angrier than it apparently was," offered Mr. Hyde as explanation for his defeat.

"I was surprised at the number of incumbents returned to office," he continued.

Mr. Hyde felt his relatively low community profile going into the election, compared with that of Ms. Johnston hurt him.

As for running again in the next election, Mr. Hyde said he has no plans to do so, however he will look to back another candidate at that time.

Ward 3 Town councillor can-



ED WOOD



ALF SPENCE

didate Tom Politi lost to incumbent Anne Currie and newcomer Gail Rutherford.

He described the campaign as a lot of fun.

The most enjoyable part, he said, was meeting the constituents and learning about their concerns.

Grant Emmerson was the other Ward 3 Town councillor candidate who lost, however he couldn't be reached for comment at press time.

In Ward 4, Town councillor candidate Peter Norton was the odd man out for one of the two local seats.

The winners were newcomer Ron Chatten and incumbent Al Cook.

"I'm not upset, the people spoke," said Mr. Norton on his defeat.

"The two elected will represent the area well," he added.

For Ward 4 Regional councillor, challengers Linda Walton and Al Pilutti were unable to beat incumbent Marilyn Serjeantson. Neither Ms. Walton nor Mr. Pilutti could be reached for comment at press time.

Halton Board of Education School trustee candidate for Wards 1 and 2, Rev. Craig Cribar said he is "a little disappointed but not terribly surprised at his loss to Dave Whiting."

Rev. Cribar placed second in the four-way race.

He attributed his loss partly to Mr. Whiting having a higher profile in Ward 2.

Rev. Cribar described the campaign as very fair.

Public School trustee candidates David Colvin and William Ball placed third and fourth respectively. Neither could be reached for comment at press time.

Ward 2 Hydro commissioner candidate Joe Rinder lost to incumbent Murt Allison.

Commenting on his defeat Mr. Rinder said, "I have no complaints."

"As they say, my cup isn't half empty it's half full."

Mr. Rinder suggested he would have received more votes if Ward 2 commissioner candidate Len Medland had withdrawn earlier in the race than he did.

Mr. Medland withdrew late in the race due to an illness in his family. Because he didn't withdraw before Oct. 11 his name was still included on the ballot.

According to the results, Mr. Medland received 721 votes despite his withdrawal.

Mr. Rinder remained uncommitted on whether he would run in the next election.

## Election winners pleased with results

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

Comments from several winning candidates in last Tuesday's municipal elections indicate some felt there were a few surprises but most are pleased with the results.

"I'm rather happy with the results," said re-elected Ward One town councillor, Gerald Rennie. "I'm pleased with what happened in Acton and with what happened in Georgetown."

He said he was particularly pleased to see incumbents re-elected, but noted Joe Hewitt's loss of the Ward One regional councillor's seat will also be a "loss for the town."

Murt Allison, the re-elected hydro commissioner for Ward Two was also surprised at Mr. Hewitt's loss.

"Mr. Hewitt as been a good contributor to council. He had a lot of dedication."

But Dave Whiting, the new Halton Board of Education trustee for Wards 1 and 2 said he knew Mr.

Hewitt was in trouble. "I got a lot of feedback while I was campaigning in the rural areas and I knew he was in trouble."

All the above mentioned candidates say they weren't particularly surprised by their own wins.

Mr. Rennie stated he felt he and fellow councillor Norm Elliott, who was also re-elected, had a fair amount of support in Acton. "Norm and I have worked hard in Acton and that was more or less verified by the results."

He said he has three priorities during his upcoming three-year term: the proposed seniors centre; getting the Acton Arena going and continuing the battle against the Acton dump.

Mr. Allison credits his past accomplishments for his win. "I felt I explained my past experience and accomplishments and that's what the people wanted to here rather than listening to a candidate run other candidates down," said Mr.

Allison referring specifically to challenger Joe Rinders' style of campaigning.

Now that he's been re-elected, Mr. Allison said he plans to continue to promote conservation and "make sure ratepayers get all the information they need to benefit from the Demand-Supply plan which will be introduced by Ontario Hydro."

Mr. Whiting believes having his name well-known through the last provincial election gave him an advantage in getting elected as the school trustee.

"My name is well-known in the rural areas," he said. He plans to concentrate his energies on the school board budget.

"I think it's important to keep the school board budget increase down this year," he said.

Though he wasn't particularly impressed by the "mud-slinging" of this year's campaign, he said the race for school trustee "was a class act. The quality of the candidates I ran against was excellent."

Anne Currie, another town councillor who was re-elected in Ward Three said "things are said in a campaign that should just be forgotten when the campaign is over."

Her goal for this term is to try and have a "better atmosphere at council with less confrontation so the people realize council is listening and wants to work with them."

She said she's also looking forward to working with the new people on council and believes the presence of Gail Rutherford, the other town councillor elected for Ward Three will make that "work well."

Another incumbent town councillor re-elected was Ward Two's Rob Heaton, who will be working with newcomer Kathy Gastle in the ward.

He said his first order of business will be to "caucus with Ms. Gastle to discuss a joint agenda for the ward."

## Recounts unlikely

None of the losing candidates in Tuesday's Halton Hills municipal election have requested the Town Clerk do a recount of votes in their respective ridings, said Dan Costea, Town Administrator during an interview Wednesday.

Given the election results, defeated candidates Joe Hewitt for Ward 2 Regional Councillor, and Alf Spence for Ward 2 Town Councillor would be the most likely to request recounts be done.

However Mr. Spence confirmed late Wednesday he doesn't intend to request a recount. Mr. Hewitt couldn't be reached for comment at press time.

Although both incumbents, Mr. Hewitt was edged out by Bill Robson by 159 votes, while Mr. Spence was 166 votes short of being one of two local council representatives in his ward.

Newcomer Kathy Gastle along with incumbent Rob Heaton will be

the Ward 2 local councillors. Ms. Gastle was voted in with 1,731 votes followed by Mr. Heaton who received 1,476 votes. Mr. Spence received 1,310 votes.

Mr. Costea said that any losing candidate who wants a recount must file a request with the Town by Nov. 20.

In accordance with the Ontario Municipal Elections Act, an automatic recount only happens if there are seven or fewer votes separating the winning candidate from the next closest person in any particular ward, explained Mr. Costea.

A candidate's request for a recount requires no deposit. However, a member of the public is required to make a \$100 deposit with the Town to have a vote recount done, said Mr. Costea. If the election results change as a result of the recount, then the person is given back the deposit, he said.