

THE VOTER'S VOICE

A Day In The Life: A series that investigates the roles of various Municipal politicians

**A Day in the Life:
Halton Hills Mayor
Rick Bonnette**

By: Vivien Fleisher

Mayor Rick Bonnette is busy: on top of all his duties as Mayor of Halton Hills, he's in constant contact with residents—social media has upped the workload for many a public figure. But he's got it down to a science, replying and tweeting throughout the day, making himself pretty accessible. He says he's one of the few mayors who answer their own. A typical work week is about 50 or 60 hours—more if there are weekend events—but those replies happen right up until bedtime, seven days a week.

The most consistent

thing about his day is his morning routine. He's up at 7 a.m. if it's a regular day, a bit later if the evening is booked, and walks his dogs—2 km. in the summer months—but has already started answering those emails, since there's no upside to letting them



accumulate.

He's in the office by 9 a.m., switching to his desktop. Once there, though, he takes every opportunity to get up and walk around to touch base

with staff. Around 10 a.m., assistant Nancy Suratte comes in and they attempt to plan the day ahead and some of the future, but it's pretty fluid and constantly changing with last-minute invites amid other duties apart from the role of Mayor, and current events—a letter that day to Toronto Mayor John Tory over the van attacks last Monday was being finalized. With the warmer weather and barbeque season firing up, the schedule is building—June is the busiest, second only to the run-up to Christmas after Labour Day.

Around 11 a.m., he drives himself over to the Georgetown



Library to make the Mayor's selection of artwork by local high school students, an unenviable task given the talent on display. People stop on their way



through to chat, which he loves.

Back at Town Hall, its lunchtime. He chooses the cafeteria; food services are getting ready for a Chamber of Commerce (COC) event that evening he'll speak at. Back in the office, more invites have come in, plus a written thank-you from Ontario Lt. Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell on her recent visit. At 2 p.m., Tim Dixon video-records an

interview with him about suicide prevention in the "Georgetown Room", a

beautiful sunny rotunda with a forested backdrop that a healthy raccoon ambles past, delighting all and interrupting filming.

It's 2:30 p.m., now. He

work—especially reading reports, which he fits in at every opportunity. His speed-reading skills have been honed over 36 years in office, 15 as Mayor. The hardest part of his job is when he gets questions for which there are no easy fixes. Being the face of the town, he fields a lot of questions.

Finally, it's time to head downstairs for the Chamber of Commerce "Investment Halton Hills" event. He addresses the large crowd, where he highlights changes to the front office of town hall to a more open, accessible space for residents, and its 8 p.m. before he gets home.

Over the years, he's led three task forces, showing his ability to galvanize support through consensus and compassion, earning the headline "The Mouse that Roared". He adds that anyone taking on the role should remember to take good care of themselves, finishing with something Councillor Paul Sheldon shared years ago: "Mayors are like tea bags; you don't know how strong they are until they're in hot water."



WE ACTON

and you'll love a **\$100 cash bonus*** when you join our Acton Branch!

Tandia is home to some of the best financial products in the industry and we are here to stay. You can count on Tandia's continuing loyal support of the Acton community.

350 Queen Street
tandia.com/acton | 1.800.598.2891



*Conditions apply – ask in-branch for details. Cannot be combined with any other offer, however referring members are eligible for \$25 referral reward, subject to conditions of the Member Referral Program. Offer expires August 31, 2018.

Give the gift of
Health and Relaxation
this

Mother's Day

NEW AND EXISTING Services:

- Registered Massage Therapy
- Health Coaching and Cell Well Being Reports
- Holistic Nutrition
- Bowenwork Technique
- Iridology and BIE (allergies)
- Specialized Custom Orthotics

**GIFT
CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE**

THE
CLINIC
HEALTH & WELLNESS
15 Willow St S Acton • 519-853-1200



The New **Tanner**
Your Hometown Newspaper

EVERYBODY LOVES A GOOD NEWSPAPER!