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NEWS

Doug Penrice retiring from Town of Halton Hills

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Doug Penrice, who has served as Halton Hills Economic Development Officer (EDO) for nearly 10 years, is calling it a career.

A lifelong resident of Georgetown, Penrice began his career with the town after a long a career in the public sector working for the family's manufacturing business.

He also worked as a real estate agent and served as the first full-time president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce between 1982. He has been involved with the Chamber in one respect or another for 42 years.

Penrice has also been very active in the community with organizations like the Lions Club, the Citizen of the Year program and the Santa Claus Parade.

"I joined the town in 2008, and since that time I've enjoyed working in a lot of areas," said Penrice. "Economic development touches a lot of areas of the town.

It's surprising when you take a look at the projects we work on, where economic development kind of slots in."

Penrice said his primary focus has been along the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, where he says more than 4 million square feet of new industrial and commercial space has been built creating roughly 3000 jobs.

Another initiative that sticks out in his mind was being involved with the planning and implementation of the town's Economic Development Strategy in 2012.

"It laid a roadmap of things we wanted to accomplish and how we're going to do it. It was divid-



Graeme Frisque / Metroland Media

Doug Penrice, who served as Economic Development Officer for the Town of Halton Hills for the last 10 years, has retired.

'I'm not really ready to say that I want to exit the business world completely.'

- Doug Penrice

ed into seven different areas with 55 action items. And over the last five we've probably fulfilled at least 90 to 95 per cent of those action items," said Penrice.

"Doug was a valued employee and we appreciate all his years of service at the Town," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "We also recognize the contribution that Doug made to various volunteer community organizations such as the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce."

While planning to take a little time off, Penrice

says he's not ready to stop working altogether.

"I will continue along (in my volunteer work). I am probably going to take a little time off, but I'm not really ready to say that I want to exit the business world completely. I've been working steady for 48 years and have never been unemployed or had a break between one job and the other," he said.

Penrice's position as EDO will be filled by Cassandra Baccardax, who previously worked for the City of Brampton for 17 years.