

VOTERS' CHOICE

2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Independent & Free Press has posed a question to municipal candidates. Here are the responses filed by the Ward 1 candidates (elect two) in Halton Hills to: **What do you consider the primary issue in Ward 1 and how would you address it?**

Robert Bedard



I consider the quality of life for all residents within our community to be my primary issue. This includes ensuring we are a vibrant, active, engaging community that supports our citizens pursuing fulfilling lives. This incorporates encouraging entrepreneurial activity that not only expands employment opportunities but also increase the ranges of services and activities available to our community; as well as ensuring our town taxes are being used efficiently, towards purposes aligned with the needs of our community.

David George Hyde



I feel the primary issues in Ward 1 are first, traffic and the ever-increasing amount of heavy vehicles, and second, the ever-increasing need to turn what was farmland into housing developments turning our small town into something much bigger.

I would address the first by proposing a bypass.

The second one is a little more complicated as this is being pushed by the provincial government so some serious negotiation will be required.

Jon Hurst



Normally the primary issue in any community would centre around growth. With the urban area of Acton surrounded by Greenbelt lands, which prohibit residential and industrial growth, Acton will grow slowly through intensification and use of available land within the urban boundary. I believe that ongoing truck traffic through our downtown and residential areas is our most serious issue. Dump trucks taking loads through Acton to neighbouring municipalities cause the greatest concern, and the Hidden Quarry application east of Rockwood, if approved, would exacerbate that concern. Our options are limited because both Hwy 7 and 25 run through Acton. An Acton bypass would solve this, however, this is a provincial decision, and serious consideration is still years away. We must continue to closely monitor the situation, continue dialogue with trucking companies, advocate for the use of alternate routes, and encourage frequent safety inspections of trucks travelling within our community.

Geoff Maltby



I believe the primary issue for Ward 1 is the Town planning. It does not seem to have a clear and proper long-term direction. We have issues with water, development and infrastructure. It has appeared that Council has been reacting to issues as opposed to being pro-active with confident decision making. I am aware of the serious water issues with the water we have, through working with the Drinking Water Source Protection and Friends of the Credit program on our 120-acre family farm. Council then approves major developments around town— it seems without any consultation with the people that are affected. I feel we don't need to proceed with major rezoning, without really informing and working with the people. We must fully understand what their concerns are, then work together with the affected people to come to a successful conclusion.

Michael O'Leary



We need to develop the industrial lands on Hwy 25 N and create local jobs. In order for that to happen the Region has to increase our water/wastewater capacity. I work with my Regional colleagues to make sure this issue remains a priority. We need to attract young families to provide the critical mass necessary to support our businesses and schools. I would like to see some movement on the sale of the 'Beardmore Lands'. Right now the owners show little interest in selling but until we solve our water issues we are in a holding pattern.

We need to address affordable housing for seniors who wish to downsize their homes. Too many are forced to move out of town to find less expensive accommodation and leave family and friends behind. We need to address more varied recreational activities for youth. Towards that end we have signed a long-term lease in the old fire hall attached to the old town hall. The lease will start once we begin renovations.

Ward 1 debate set for Oct. 14

A debate for the Ward 1 municipal election candidates is set for Tuesday (Oct. 14) at the Acton Town Hall Centre. The debate will begin at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.). Candidates will have the opportunity to mingle with constituents following the debate. All are welcome.

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