

VOTERS' CHOICE

2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Independent & Free Press has posed a question to municipal candidates. Here are the responses filed by the Ward 3 candidates (elect two) in Halton Hills to: **What do you consider the primary issue in Ward 3 and how would you address it?**

Syl Carle

Ward 3 residents would benefit from a plan to attract businesses generating jobs and inspire growth. Our downtown and core commercial corridor need a comprehensive planning policy review to facilitate the addition of residential condo units and adequate low income housing. As such, I will solicit community involvement and impartially support the repurposing of local properties to meet our needs and goals.

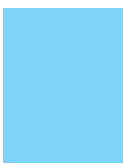


PHOTO NOT SUBMITTED

Rob Demille

The main concern in my Ward is that a balance be maintained between Growth and 'Green' space in our community. It's important to protect our heritage. If we don't know where we have been, how can we know where we are going? There are many underlying issues that I have heard from people throughout my ward, including but not limited to, taxes, water and transportation. In my opinion it is important to have areas that people can come together to build lasting relationships.



Working towards consensus on where Halton Hills is going and how, as a community, we want to be viewed is an important step and challenge that I am up to.

Moya Johnson

In addition to many town-wide, specific neighbourhood and individual issues that exist, the recurring major issue facing Ward 3 is redevelopment and its impact on the existing character of the ward. Many people approach their local government only when a proposal will directly affect their neighbourhood, street or home. The province has directed municipalities to provide 40% of new growth within existing urban boundaries. This means that infilling will be occurring within existing neighbourhoods. I continue to be vigilant when applications for Ward 3 are submitted and I encourage residents to provide their input during the planning process. I work with staff to encourage developers to design new buildings or developments that consider the existing residents and minimize negative effects on their quality of life and character of their neighbourhoods.



Josef Jones

First, like most of Ward 3, I'm deeply concerned about the level of growth coming to our town. I'm ready to stand up to the developers; I'm willing to fight to preserve the soul of our community. I treasure our town and I'll work to preserve its heritage and values. Any new development must add to what is unique and beautiful about Georgetown, not take away from it. Second, one of my top priorities is to put more services and supports in place for our seniors. With the maturing of the "Baby Boomers," we have a growing number of seniors in our community and they deserve more from us. We must not forget that they built this country and we have to do right by them. From accessibility to homecare to new seniors' housing options, we need to get this right by engaging our community partners and the province.



Dave Kentner

I consider the concerns of individual Ward 3 residents to be my primary issue.

The "Ice Storm" of December 2013 caused many residents to seek help, information and clarification of rumors. I was involved with my fellow Ward 3 Councillors and Mayor Bonnette to seek out information concerning activities at 'test wells' on one residential street and report back to the residents. Railroad expansion and operational issues have raised resident concerns resulting in many meetings. Often I am called on to co-ordinate the efforts of higher levels of government to solve a concern and often I am called upon to work with our Town Staff to find resolutions whether this be a speed bump, an increase level of bylaw enforcement or often supplying accurate information to address their concern. I look forward to continuing to respond promptly to their calls and emails and to helping to address their concerns.



Dave Sands

I believe residents are concerned with how the Town controls, manages and finances growth.

I believe the Town must simplify its vision and be more disciplined in its project spending. Town resources are stretched thin, trying to do and be everything at once. We are spending money we don't necessarily have, as recent tax levies show, and overspending on, underutilized facilities. We can get better value for our dollars and in the end provide more for less to residents.

I also believe the Town should benchmark against the private sector, not only public sector peers, to ensure tax payers are receiving fair value. A Municipality is a service organization to its residents. Its primary purpose is to provide the best value in services in exchange for the residents' hard-earned tax dollars. Council must challenge Town Management to provide budgets in line with revenues and to build back depleted reserve funds.



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