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Mayor: New CAO will be current staff member; announcement soon

Continued from page 3

In speaking with *The Independent & Free Press*, Smith echoed Bonnette's sentiments.

"I suggested to them that, looking forward at the priorities coming up and challenges facing the town, a different skill set might be better for them," he said.

An announcement on Smith's replacement is expected either tomorrow (Friday) or Monday. Bonnette said that council is appointing a new CAO from within the existing Halton Hills staff.

He acknowledged that it's not common for a municipality to promote a CAO from within, but said when Smith's replacement is made public people "will understand why we're doing it."

He noted searching for a new CAO outside of current staff is a lengthy process and there's no time to waste at this critical point of planning Halton Hills' future.

"We do have capable staff here that will be able to hit the ground running," he said.

Smith told *The Independent & Free Press*

that working in Halton Hills has been a very positive experience for him.

"The mayor and council are always very conscientious and always keep the best interest of the community at the forefront," he said. "I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the past three years."

Smith said at this point he can't comment on where he's going once he leaves Halton Hills, but indicated he plans to carry on in the municipal sector, which he has worked in for the past 35 years.

The experienced CAO came to Halton Hills from Waterloo, where he was the deputy CAO. Prior to that, Smith worked for the City of Mississauga for over 25 years.

Smith's last day isn't known at this point, but he said it will be sometime before the next town council meeting on Aug. 24.

Council bade him farewell as he attended his last meeting on Monday.

"We wish you well," said Bonnette.



Mayor Rick Bonnette



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