## MEET RANDY KERMAN, THE GEORGETOWN **BUSINESS OWNER LOOKING TO CUT RED** TAPE AS A WARD 3 COUNCILLOR

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Dismayed by the stalling of numerous developments around Georgetown, Randy Kerman is hoping to make a change.

The Glen Williams resident and owner of Silver Creek Financial Services in downtown Georgetown is running for a seat in council, representing the area where he works.

"I've been disappointed with the direction that council and the town have been going in the last 10 vears," he said, noting that the delays in development, and redevelopment projects have been stalling the economic stability and prosperity of the town.

"The McGibbon project is sort of near and dear to

my heart," said Kerman, who was the first purchaser of a unit.

"Two other projects in the past 24 months have filed claims with the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) over failure to make a decision," he said. "There seems to be a disconnect with things, council, policy and staff ... we need some new blood on council."

Kerman has been working in the financial industry for over 32 years and moved his services to Georgetown a little over a decade ago, and now runs his company with his daughter.

He grew up in North York, and later moved to Caledon, where he was politically active on government advisory committees in cities like Brampton, as well as in Georgetown.

"Development is coming," he said, explaining that there are generally two schools of thought around growth in Halton Hills.

We can stick our heads in the sand and hope it goes away," he said, or embrace the inevitability and the provincial density mandates, and work with developers to try and get the best solution for the people of Halton Hills.

"I like to follow the latter, and I don't necessarily think that's the approach with some members of council," he said.

While development remains at the forefront of political debate around Halton Hills, Kerman is passionate about issues like public transit as well



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Randy Kerman is running to be a Halton Hills councillor in ward

as affordable housing.

He says he's very pleased with the latest recommendations to council about public transit services for Halton Hills and says that the key hubs like Georgetown and Acton GO stations, as well as trips to Brampton and Trafalgar Memorial Hospital will be critical services.

"I always thought that

public transportation would be a no go," said Kerman. "I think the public outlook has been more open to it than it has been in the past."

He says that public transit services tie into the need for affordable housing.
"The employment sec-

tor in Georgetown has trouble getting evening

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- Randy Kerman

staff," he said, noting that there are few places in Halton Hills where someone with a minimum wage job could afford to live. "Even the Silvercreek towers are almost unaffordable."

As a councillor, he says he would advocate for solutions that sometimes think outside of the box.

"I think my experience in business and the private sector, along with my understanding of municipal policy brings a fresh look," he said. "We need some fresh ideas."



