

VYING FOR THE MAYOR'S SEAT: ROBERT GOTTARDI

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Robert Gottardi never stops learning.

The retired banker and investment portfolio manager says that he learns from his daughter and others on a regular basis, and now, he wants to learn about what people need in Halton Hills.

"I'm running to find out what people want, what they need and how to best get it to them," he said in a recent meeting at the IFP offices.

Gottardi has been living in Halton Hills for nearly a decade after moving from Etobicoke.

He says his first time visiting Georgetown was years before the move, when he bought a four-week-old lab puppy from the Georgetown SPCA.

"I thought, 'this is a nice community,'" he said. "This is a neighbourhood, and that's special. I'm glad I live here."

Gottardi has a 19-year-old daughter living with cystic fibrosis, who is attending Ryerson University.

"It's a great place to raise a family," said Gottardi. "We are proud of her."

During his career in the financial sector, Gottardi worked several years in banking with a credit union before managing investment portfolios for cli-



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Robert Gottardi is running for Mayor of Halton Hills.

ents.

It's that experience managing funds, he says, that prepared him perfectly for the position of mayor.

"There's a lot of hard working people in Halton Hills, they can't afford a four per cent tax increase," he said, noting that as mayor he would fight to keep taxes low in town.

He says he would also reduce the salary for the mayor's position.

"There seems to be a sense of entitlement lately," he said, noting the recent report to council on increasing salaries for mayor and council. "I'm not that type of person."

He says he wants the town to be proactive toward issues and growth,

not reactive.

That's especially the case with transit, he added.

"Let's try to develop a multi-jurisdictional solution," he said. "Share the cost of infrastructure with other communities."

He says with the demand for Activan services in the area, as well as the need for connections to nearby cities, "we have to have a better system."

Gottardi would also work to lobby for increased internet service for rural residents.

"I understand that fighting against large corporations is going to be an uphill battle," he said, adding that negotiation is key.

The municipal election is on Oct. 22.

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