

► MUNICIPAL ELECTION

'THIS IS THE RACE I HAVE TO TAKE,' ANNE MARSDEN CHALLENGES GARY CARR FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL SEAT

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This isn't Anne Marsden's first rodeo.

The Burlington resident has been running for seats in council and provincial government for nearly 30 years and at the final hour, threw her hat in the ring to be regional chair for Halton.

"This is the race I have to take," said Marsden, who has built a career around quality assurance administration.

She says that the Gary Carr's actions while serving as chair have impacted residents' quality of life, as well as democratic rights.

"I'm definitely the most qualified candidate ever to run for chair," she said. "People don't understand that the Halton chair is an administrative position."

She says the politicians elected are not properly qualified to run the region and conserve the residents' tax dollars, spending them in the most efficient way possible.

It was Doug Ford's win, and subsequent moves to cut down the size of government and government spending that inspired her to run again, after her first attempt for regional chair back in 2014. She initially intended to run again for the position of Burlington mayor, but fixed her gaze



Eric Riehl, Burlington Post
Burlington mayoral candidate Anne Marsden stands in front of the cenotaph at city hall. She stresses soldiers fought for democracy, making the importance of voting paramount.

on the chair's seat instead.

"Ford's unprecedented action showed he was serious," she said. "He keeps his word when it comes to dysfunctional municipal governments."

Over the past three decades Marsden has advocated for Halton residents in issues of accessibility as well as health and safety, after retiring from her career working in administrative roles for organizations like McMaster University and Chedoke hospitals.

Marsden has lived her

entire life with a disability associated with spina bifida, which in the 1990s became debilitating.

Her own physical obstacles inspired her to advocate for others, rallying for a slew of issues in the region from C. difficile outbreaks at Joseph Brant, to accessibility to the Brant Street Pier.

"The days of our monies being used contrary to our laws are over," she said. "I believe that you're not going to get a better candidate for Halton chair than I am."

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