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WE ASKED AND THEY ANSWERED: CANDIDATES TALK KEY ISSUES IN HALTON HILLS

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As part of the IFP's coverage of the 2018 Halton Hills municipal election, staff asked the candidates in the race to respond to the question: "What do you think is the top issue affecting Halton Hills residents and what is your strategy to tackle this issue?"

Here's what candidates running for council, regional council, and mayor said:

WARD ONE, MIKE ALBANO

The No. 1 concern I hear often is the traffic/bypass issues. This is a real problem, a problem that requires co-operation, input and funding from the province the region and possibly the federal government. The problem is not an easy fix and will take time. I have been very involved addressing the traffic issues and have been working with town staff and other councillors. Over the years there have been lots of talks about traffic; it was this council that moved forward to ad-

dress and act on this concern. This council approved the truck and traffic study and the town is currently undertaking Phase 1 of the study. Phase 2 is expected to examine the Acton Bypass options. The results of the Phase 1 study will be made available in a report in 2019.

RYAN MCLAUGHLIN

I have had many rural residents email me to discuss their concerns about things like garbage pickup. For them, that is a major issue. In going door-to-door over the past few weeks, many of the young families I've met have discussed their concerns around the pool in Acton and the lack of services for children and teens. For other people, the issue of seniors housing is top of the list. All of these are major issues that coun-



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Candidates are hitting the campaign trail in the weeks leading up to the municipal election. What should we ask them to find out if they're the best candidate for our vote?

cil needs to try and tackle. As a financial professional, I think the top issue facing Halton Hills is attracting new high-paying jobs and retaining existing jobs. The town has done a good job of attracting warehouse jobs and retail jobs. However, we need to continue to look for new opportunities to bring high tech, high-paying jobs. We have large growing communities around us that are also trying to attract the same jobs and in order to stand out, our community needs to be cut above the rest with top flight facilities, services and skilled workers. The best way to address all of these issues is to partner with residents, businesses and all levels of government to try and

move these issues forward.

PETER DUNCANSON

Acton and Georgetown, the two biggest urban centres in Halton Hills, are fundamentally different. What is considered a major issue in one is a minor problem in the other. I am a candidate in ward one in Acton. The major issue in my ward, according to area residents, is heavy truck traffic coming down Highways 7 and 25. It affects the stores, services and restaurants in the downtown core. It makes parking difficult and causes severe traffic congestion as large trucks try to turn at the intersection of Highway 7 and 25. There is no easy answer to this issue. A bypass will be expensive and even if approved tomorrow will

be years away from completion. There are other issues that are very close on residents list of concerns, but this seems to be the big one, as it affects many aspects of life in Acton. I realize that this is not a big issue in Georgetown, but it certainly is to the town of Acton.

JAMIE ADAMS

We understand road safety, business growth, low taxes and affordable recreation for youth and seniors is important. A lesser discussed issue that council will need to decide on soon after the election is whether Halton Hills will opt-in to having storefront cannabis retailers. I'm committed to making an informed decision about recreational cannabis

from the input provided by industry experts, and more importantly from our residents. Public engagement isn't Town Hall telling us what they've decided and feel free to comment; it should be "give us your comment and we will make it our plan." As a mother of young and impressionable children, this discussion is challenging, but I'm very conscious of the fact we only got here because of social activism. This shift with cannabis was the desire of the public and that speaks volumes. We still need more information on the impacts and safety for our community, but I will listen to our residents and collaborate with council to

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