

MAYOR WON'T BE SEEKING REELECTION

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Rick Bonnette won't be seeking re-election after 19 years as Halton Hills' mayor.

His announcement Tuesday (Dec. 14) drew several noticeable 'Oh!'s from those gathered at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual mayor's lunch.

Bonnette has served on Halton Hills council for four decades, since first being elected as councillor at the age of 27.

"It's been a privilege and a total honour and a most humbling experience to become mayor of this wonderful town," said the town's longest serving mayor.



Town of Halton Hills photo
Rick Bonnette has decided not to seek another term as mayor.

Bonnette thanked councillors, town staff and his wife Josey.

Though he said he usually waits until May — when candidates can sign up for the election — to de-

clare his intentions, since deciding not to run he said it is only fair to make that announcement earlier.

Bonnette said it takes time to assemble campaign teams and build the necessary relationships and, he added, give them plenty of time to consider the decision.

"I didn't want to wait until the end because I want to give potential candidates (time), to be fair to them so they can start thinking from now to May, because you can be knee jerk and say 'OK, I'm running,' and in two weeks thinking, 'Good god, what did I just do?' This will give people plenty of time to think about it."

Despite saying it is "the best job anyone can have," Bonnette said candidates do need that time to consider all that is involved with the position.

"I recommend it to anybody who is willing to put in 60 or 70 hours a week," he said. "It's not easy."

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