

MORE POWER FOR MAYORS A CONCERN

MUCH MORE IS ACHIEVED WITH COLLABORATE EFFORT, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

The municipal election is just around the corner, with election day on Oct. 24.

Halton Hills will be electing a new mayor, as you know. After 19 years on the job, I am not seeking re-election. While mayors and councillors and new candidates are actively campaigning across the province, Premier Doug Ford made an announcement that should be of interest to you.

He suggested that the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa and possibly other major Ontario cities (for example, Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton) would be granted more powers, including the ability to veto council decisions.

This would put these mayors with, in my opinion, U.S.-style mayor powers that you often see in the movies.

To be fair, the devil is in the details. Mark my words, if this idea comes to

fruition, there will be a trickle-down effect, because other mayors will want the same power granted to their colleagues.

As mayor, I have always been a consensus builder with my council colleagues. You get more accomplished with a collaborative approach.

Some mayors may have a more dictatorial style if they are granted these powers. I am totally against this concept. Doing so, in my opinion, is a move away from a democratic process.

The system in place now is that each councillor has one vote and they can advocate for their wards equally.

I bet many mayors would love more power. To me, it would be the worst thing that could happen to local municipal government.

At the end of the day, a mayor has only one vote, the same as their council colleagues — as it should be.

On a light note, after two years, the Rock 'n Roll Classics Car Show is back. Organizers are celebrating their 21st anniversary on Friday, Aug. 26 — starting at 5 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Georgetown.

There will be a 50/50 raffle in support of the Georgetown Hospital and door prizes and awards for car owners. I hope you will have a chance to drop by and support this very popular event.

Rick Bonnette is the mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter at @RickBonnette1 and Instagram at @rick_bonnette1.

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SNAPSHOT



Tony Fortunato photo

A red squirrel enjoys an apple in a backyard on Trafalgar Road in Georgetown. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

WHEN SHOPPING FOR FINANCIAL PRODUCTS, BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE

Recent results of mystery shoppers provided Canada's banks with mixed messages, according to Investment Executive.

Three out of every four shoppers reported having a positive experience.

But many shoppers had a negative experience with inappropriate product recommendations, confusing and misleading disclosures, sales pressure and a lack of knowledge from the employee.

Inappropriate product recommendations were reportedly experienced by one out of every three shoppers inquiring about a chequing account. Almost half of the shoppers claim to have found inappropriate recommendations when inquiring about credit cards.

This research by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) was re-



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leased in May.

The FCAC said "bank workers need to be trained to make recommendations that meet consumer's needs, without pressuring them to accept products they do not need or understand. Employee sales targets and incentives should not conflict with these objectives."

The quality of service cannot just be judged by the personality of the person with whom you speak. It is all about the quality of the recommendations.

The part of the survey I found most interesting was the shoppers came away with a pleasant experience, but as for the important aspects, there was much lacking in the quality of service.

It's important that everyone be their own personal advocate.

Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Only investment-related products and services are offered through Watson Securities of ACPI. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at www.watsoninvestments.com.

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newsroom@theifp.ca
IndependentAndFreePress
@IFP_11

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CONTACT US

The Independent & Free Press
901 Guelph Line
Burlington, ON L7R 3N8
Phone: 905-873-0301
Classifieds: 1-800-263-6480
Fax: 905-873-0398

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