

MAYORAL CANDIDATE BRINGS BUSINESS, POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The caller, an older woman, had a problem. She was worried because she didn't know how to turn off her stove.

Unsure who to contact, she called Ken Paige, her alderman in East York. Unable to solve the problem over the phone, Paige made a call to the fire department to have a fire-fighter stop by and make sure the woman was OK and the stove was safely turned off.

Appliance safety may not have been part of his job description, but the way Paige saw it, it was part of his role.

"As an elected official, your job is to help people," he said.

It is that belief that led Paige to put his name forward as a candidate for the

next mayor of Halton Hills.

"What I always remembered from my time as an alderman was the ability to help people on a day-to-day basis," the Glen Williams resident said. "Whether it was, 'Someone cut down my tree,' or it was a major housing development, helping people and making a difference stuck with me."

And Paige sees many ways in which he can help. As the former CEO of a pharmaceutical company, he believes his experience will translate well to other organizations.

He said establishing a culture where everyone can perform to the best of their ability is key. So too is relying on the people with



Ken Paige photo

Ken Paige, a former pharmaceutical company CEO with municipal politics experience, is running for mayor of Halton Hills.

expertise.

"You have to have a good dose of humility," he said. "You have to engage with

(staff) to understand an issue but also realize they are going to understand it better than you because

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- Ken Paige

that's their job."

During his five years on East York council, he served as head of the budget committee, which he believes will benefit in balancing the needs of the community while keeping tax increases low.

Having visited Halton Hills a few times, Paige and his wife moved to Glen Williams 10 years ago.

"It's a really nice blend. You have a community with a deep history that has been preserved, but you're not out in the middle of nowhere. You're close to amenities, but if you like

nature, you can step outside your door and you're there."

He served a two-year term on the Glen Williams Community Association, where he became familiar with issues facing the community, such as traffic, development and zoning.

"The community needs to feel they're being heard," he said. "They want to know, do you have their best interest at heart? You have to act in ways that you feel you've had a good outcome. That's difficult, but they have to at least feel that you're trying."

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