

NEW TOWN COUNCIL SWORN IN

REETI ROHILLA
rrohilla@metroland.com

The Town of Halton Hills kicked off a new season of municipal politics with the swearing-in of its almost entirely new council and mayor on Nov. 21.

Six new councillors have joined the table with four familiar faces and Mayor Ann Lawlor.

"This council has its work cut out for it. But we are up for the challenge — renewed, refreshed with many years of experience around the table and a passion



Reeti M. Rohilla/Metroland

Halton Hills' mayor and councillors are sworn in.

for maintaining our unique community soul," said Lawlor.

The new council consists of D'Arcy Keene, Ron Norris, Chantal Garneau, Alex Hilson, Jason Brass, Joseph Racinsky and incumbents Bob Inglis and Mike Albano.

Jane Fogal is elected as regional councillor for Wards 3 and

4 and Clark Somerville acclaimed as regional councillor for Wards 1 and 2.

Lawlor shared pride in the 12 years of service on town council and thanked former mayor Rick Bonnette for support over the years.

"I am proud of the communities we are maintaining and those

we are creating," Lawlor said. "The slogan 'small town living at its best' sums up our character in a nutshell."

Lawlor appreciated advancements seen over the years through the town's Sustainability Strategy — which focuses on cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health

and social well-being — and talked about future goals.

"There are some challenges that I see in the offing, and I am confident that our council will address them with wisdom and sensitivity," she said.

Lawlor recognized financial pressures — due to inflation and non-discretionary cost increases such as insurance premiums — on the budget as a key challenge.

"A second challenge is upheaval due to new and unfolding regulations dictated by the province," Lawlor said. "Several pieces of new legislation and regulation including, the so-called 'More Homes Built Faster Act' threatens citizen participation, years of planning processes, natural heritage protection, climate action and heritage preservation," she added.

Managing growth would be a third challenge Lawlor said she believes would be faced by the new council.

"I will work hard to ensure that the new neighbourhoods that we create reinforce our character; that we avoid sprawl and the geography of nowhere," she said.

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