

## NDP candidate offers wealth of experience

By Oksana Buhel

One more candidate has joined the federal election race in the Halton-Peel riding.

Norma Peterson was nominated Sunday as the New Democratic Party candidate. Peterson has been the executive assistant to Halton North M.P.P. Noel Duignan for three years and said this is what kept her from announcing her candidacy for so long. "I was very conscientious about what my leaving would do," she said.

Peterson believes her career with Duignan is a particular benefit. "I've had an opportunity to listen to, and

become familiar with, the concerns of the constituents," she pointed out.

Politics have been an interest of Peterson's throughout her life. Peterson's father, Norm Fawcett, was involved in municipal government in Capreol, Ontario, north of Sudbury. He also served a term, 1965-68, as the area NDP member of parliament.

Peterson's political career began in 1982, when she was elected municipal councillor in Kincardine. She said municipal politics are very difficult, because although these politicians, for the most part, are able to see their deci-



Norma Peterson

sions followed through, they are also closer to the people and therefore more accountable. "This was a learning experience for me," she said.

She has previously run, unsuccessfully, both provincially and federally. Peterson was a federal NDP candidate for the Grey-Bruce riding in 1984, and a provincial NDP candidate for the Huron-Bruce and Bruce ridings in 1985 and 1987 respectively.

"I have a long-standing interest in politics," she maintained.

Peterson claims that she has always been interested in the policies of the NDP. "I can't envision any other types of policies which best address

the issues of working people," she said.

Asked which issues are her greatest concerns, Peterson responded, "jobs, jobs, jobs! Everything else falls into place." She described an NDP strategy which will incorporate job creation with deficit reduction.

"The P.C.s (Progressive Conservatives) have an apparent obsession with the deficit," Peterson criticized, "even though they've been in power for nine years."

Peterson also denounces free trade, which she feels is hurting Canadians, especially farmers.

Provinces are also being hurt, she maintains, by a reduction of transfer payments. Peterson believes provinces are not financially stable enough to take on the added responsibilities.

Regarding her own capacity, Peterson is confident. "I'm not afraid of the responsibility the elected office will hold," she insists.

The telephone number at Peterson's campaign headquarters, located at 330 Guelph St. in Georgetown, is 702-0062.

## Training costs queried

By Oksana Buhel

At Monday's Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting, councillors scoffed at the fact a one-week training course had been legislated to train safety committee members to operate a photocopier, dishwasher and fax machine.

"I really find this difficult to believe," said Councillor Gerald Rennie. "We are supposed to pay \$535 per person (for Category 1 of safety training) for them to learn how to hold a stepladder, or push a handcart?"

Councillor Anne Currie agreed with Rennie. "I've been operating a dishwasher for many years, and look...I'm still here to talk about it."

Category 3 is a more in-depth, three-week training course for safety committee members involved with personal protective equipment, engineering controls and hygiene facilities to control employee exposure to hazardous chemicals.

The cost to send two members from each workplace Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (Halton Hills has three such committees), as well as a management representative and a staff representative, will be \$6,045 + GST, a cost which the town will have to absorb in its 1994 budget.

Marc Cohen, municipal personnel officer, pointed out councillors do not have a choice. "This is a legislated requirement," he said. "Councillors can be individually fined if they do not comply."

Rennie asked how much the fine would be, believing it may be less than sending the delegates to the safety courses.

Cohen assured Rennie this was not the case. Individuals who do not comply with the legislation can face fines up to \$25,000 and/or up to 12 months imprisonment, and municipalities may be subject to \$500,000 fines.

Mayor Russ Miller admitted "some of this is crap," but added councillors had no choice because the decision was legislated. Miller suggested what people could do is examine candidates and governments more closely, to identify their policies, before voting for them.

## University Women

The University Women's Club of Georgetown is sponsoring an All Candidates Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at the John Elliott Theatre in the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church St. in Georgetown.

The doors open at 7:15 p.m. with introductions and candidates' platforms commencing at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

This will be followed by an open question period. The evening will conclude with an informal coffee and dessert time, courtesy of club members. The University Women's Club of Georgetown extends an invitation to the community to attend make an informed decision on election day.

For more information, call 877-5806 or 873-2848.

*Halton Hills This*

**WEEKEND**

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Last Wednesday, Reform Party candidate for Halton-Peel riding Dick MacDuffee (centre), performed the official ribbon cutting to open the Acton Campaign Office, located at 14 Mill Street East. Other Reform Party representatives present at the opening were, from left; Campbellville are director Sharon Carter, Reform Party National Executive member Maurice Carter, Kay MacDuffee, Dick MacDuffee, Secretary of the Halton-Peel Riding Association Donna Bach, volunteer Wayne Boudreau, and volunteer Orlando Vicente. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

## Get moving, urges Malcolmson

By Oksana Buhel

Bob Malcolmson, president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce urged Town of Halton Hills councillors at Monday's general committee meeting "not (to) sit around waiting for the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board)" because the business community needs a timeline (regarding development in Acton)."

Councillor Rob Heaton demanded to know how council can speed up the process when the next OMB hearing is scheduled for Jan. 24. Malcolmson advised council to "do its utmost." He also suggested councillors deal with the issue now instead of saving it for a municipal election issue.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson shot back she had no intention of prolonging the issue and would like to see it dealt with as quickly as possible. She pointed

out before a study could begin, terms of reference had to be drawn up, which could only be completed with the cooperation of all agencies. After this step is completed, a consultant can be hired to begin the studies. "We as politicians are doing what we can to take care of this problem," she assured Malcolmson.

Malcolmson suggested the process could be accelerated if council give firmer direction to town staff. "Don't let the staff make its own decisions," he advised.

In total, Malcolmson made five recommendations, three of which he would like responded to in writing by Oct. 19.

He suggested council give the Chamber a timeline regarding the two required Department of Fisheries and Oceans studies, to allow businesses to make sound decisions. Malcolmson rec-

ommended council request the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) release records pertaining to Black Creek and later meet with MNR, Ministry of Environment and Energy and Credit Valley Conservation Authority personnel to assist in speeding up the process to allow development.

Malcolmson's final two recommendations were that council deal with this issue before the 1994 fall municipal election and it contact the Ministry of Energy and the Environment to propose the replacement of Wes Lammers, special projects co-ordinator of the Ministry of Energy and the Environment (MOEE). Malcolmson suggested since he is only six months away from retirement, "he may not be willing to rock the boat."

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