



Building our log cabin

We are still building our log cabin - and now to carry on with that gaping hole in the cabin wall. We were already two feet short on the logs and to accommodate the door we had to cut back even further. No problem. We had left many spaces for windows of various sizes but putting them in could wait; they could just be boarded up.

We had it in mind to have a beamed ceiling and by a stroke of luck we heard of a barn being dismantled on the land where Milton Manor now stands on Gordon Strain's old farm. We bought about 14 pine beams. A neighbour, Gordon Fricker, hauled them over to Archie Fuller's sawmill on the 4th Line Chinguacousy.

Where they were sawn in half lengthwise, they were all virgin pine cut on the farm where they were used. We had bought just enough to do the whole cabin. When it came to the ceiling we went down to Lakeview

Lumber where we found enough tongue and grooved lumber that had been used in the barracks erected during WWII that had been taken down. I have forgotten the price but it was more than reasonable, second-hand lumber was pretty cheap back then.

The lumber had been stained so we didn't paint it, nor did we paint the beams. When virgin pine is rubbed with linseed oil it brings out its lovely colour. We never did get all the beams finished - someday, maybe! We have been asked on occasion when were we going to point all the wood, but that is not about to happen.

We had made all kinds of mistakes so far but our chief regret has been that we didn't make the walls one log higher. The attic didn't allow us to stand up except in the centre. With a little more foresight we could have had two bright rooms "upstairs" - "upstairs" likely by way of a ladder, no doubt.

However, by 1957 we now had a cabin 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, no partitions yet, no chimney, no water on tap, no plumbing, no hydro, no telephone, but we were making progress. We had to have been incurable optimists at that stage.

In anticipation of a fireplace we had built a "Samsonpost" for it in the basement as a foundation and we split fieldstone to be ready when the time came. We also bought a pre-fab chimney.

Splitting fieldstones is an art in itself, but with a good stone hammer and an eye for seeing the grain of a stone it can even be fun. Stone is beautiful, full of colour and light - pinks, blues, shimmering greys, even blacks and whites. We had a pile of it, flat-faced, ready to go, but after three years we gave up on the fireplace and bought a Franklin stove and set it on a raised hearthstone from the Credit Valley quarry.

More to come in the next issue of The North Halton Compass!

Vision and leadership needed for Halton Hills

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Saying that Halton Hills needs a mayor with long-term vision and leadership, Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle has declared her intention to run for that office in the November municipal elections.

"There are issues in Halton Hills that must be faced, and faced now," said Gastle, citing the need for industrial and commercial growth in Georgetown and Acton.

"Residents must have opportunities to live and work in our community and we must balance that growth with our residential tax base. Our taxes need to be stabilized with zero per cent increase."

"Agricultural lands are critical to the long-term social and economic health of the community," says Gastle, "and we must find ways to protect our water recharge and discharge areas."

Gastle, who believes that we need to look to the past to protect our future, states that her vision calls for an increase in protection policies for our natural, cultural and archaeologically significant areas.

With her established leadership skills and experience in tourism and economic development, Gastle believes that no challenge is too great to ensure that the people of Halton Hills enjoy a good quality of life.

"There are families who have lived in our communities for generations, and many who have come to our towns and villages looking for that very sense of community for themselves and their children. Halton Hills has experienced tremendous growth pressure - and those pressures will continue.

"Our smaller settlement areas are fundamentally connected to our urban areas. They contribute to an unique overall quality of life that is worth preserving."

"I see a future where growth is managed in a positive way ... a future where urban design guidelines are established for all development and re-development applications. A future where no more of our citizens' tax dollars are wasted at Ontario Municipal Board hearings, and where improved procedures will allow us to evolve in a more orderly fashion."

Gastle points out that transportation is a big issue across the GTA and that Halton Hills has experienced traffic congestion and increasing pressures on its roads system.

"For the last several years I have been responsive to ways to improve our transportation network, including support for a Georgetown/Norval by-pass. Careful planning will bring improved road safety and road structures to Halton Hills.

"I have strong leadership skills, a proven record for getting things done, and I look forward to the challenges in leading Halton Hills to new heights of excellence."

Kathy Gastle was born and raised in Norval and still makes her home in the village with her husband George and their children. Her family has a long history in the area. Her late mother, Joan Carter, ran the Norval Post Office for over 30 years and her father, Ormie, worked for the former Georgetown Abitibi Provincial Paper Company. Gastle is proud to acknowledge her parents' service to our country during World War II. Her mother served with the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and her father, a POW survivor, with the Special Forces.

With nine years experience in municipal government - two of which as Regional Councillor - Gastle, who graduated in social work from Sheridan College, says it has been a privilege and an honour to serve the constituents of Halton Hills during the past three terms of office.

"I feel rewarded because many of my goals have been accomplished."



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Bonnette runs for re-election in Wards 1 & 2

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE THE COMPASS

Rick Bonnette believes that representation will play a major role in the future of Halton Hills. With at least one of the local council seats open to a newcomer, Bonnette believes that continuity and experience will be crucial in the next term of Council.

"My six terms on Council have provided that experience and have demonstrated my commitments to this growing responsibility... As a lifelong resident of

Halton Hills I have developed a keen awareness of the unique characteristics of the hamlets of Glen Williams, Stewarttown, Limehouse and Norval. I've been directly involved in many issues confronting the farming community and other components of Ward Two."

Experience and knowledge of the issues is a vital necessity for any council representative, and Bonnette feels that he has those qualities. Some of the issues during his current term and his involvement were Chairperson of the Norval Secondary Plan, and Planning and Public Works; Halton Agriculture Advisory Committee (HAAC); involvement in the Glen Williams Secondary Plan, Stewarttown's service concerns, the 401 corridor through Hornby and its service and planning; rural water issues; Limehouse's traffic and pedestrian concerns; Ballinafad's truck traffic, and many more.

"I've continually directed my efforts to the full and fair representation of all residents of Halton Hills," he stresses. "I look forward to meeting challenges of representing the combined wards of One and Two in the best interests of Halton Hills."

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