

# Bonnette and Day in race for Halton Hills mayor

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

Rick Bonnette and John Day both filed their nominations for mayor of Halton Hills on the same day, May 14. Both are experienced local politicians and current Regional councillors. Both are long-time residents of Halton Hills, although Mr. Bonnette lives in Acton, and Mr. Day lives in Georgetown. Both believe in the importance of listening to people. Both have long lists of political accomplishments of which they're proud.



Rick Bonnette

Mr. Bonnette mentions several achievements by the Region and Town. "I am proud of the Regional 24-hour ambulance service, seeing the new Acton arena and the addition to the

Georgetown arena completed on budget." He also mentions the landfill site being extended for 45 years, the Region's maintained Triple A credit rating, secondary plans for Norval and Glen Williams, and new development in Acton.

Mr. Day's accomplishments from the current term of office include raising awareness of the needs of youth and homeless people, and drawing attention to the issues of affordable housing and improved transportation. "In 2002, during a funding crisis for youth centres in Georgetown and Acton, we were able to raise \$20,000 in a month," he points out. "We want to start finding new sustainable funding for the youth centres." As chairman of the Halton Hills Homelessness task force, Mr. Day obtained federal funding to establish transition houses in Acton and Georgetown to provide temporary

shelter.

Mr. Bonnette is quite specific about his plans for his term as mayor. "I want to see the 401 corridor on Steeles Avenue reach its potential for industrial growth. The low industrial tax base has been a burden on the residential taxpayer." He wants to protect agricultural land through the Official Plan. He wants the Gellert Community Centre completed on budget. He wants more housing choices, including affordable and seniors'. He wants to address traffic problems and the condition of roads.

Mr. Day is more general about his plans should he become mayor. "My campaign will stand on the environment, including physical, social and economic, as well as an open and accessible government, an approachable mayor, creative business opportunities, safe communities and intelligent land-use planning."

Mr. Bonnette is married to Josey, and they have adopted a former racing greyhound as a pet. Mr. Bonnette enjoys in-line skating, cross-country skiing and coaching ladies' hockey. Mr. Day is married to Gretchen, has two grown daugh-

ters, and enjoys time at his cottage, gardening, music and walking the Bruce Trail.

Mr. Day has been open about his problem with alcohol. He reveals that he is a recovering alcoholic and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. "Being rigorously honest with people, as well as with myself, is part of dealing with my shortcomings and taking steps to building a better life for the future," he says. "This has become a source of strength for me because no one has more to prove than I do. No one is going to work harder to prove himself and earn trust than me."

Mr. Bonnette declares: "My 21



John Day

years' experience, 18 as Regional councillor, make me uniquely qualified to serve as mayor. I have a proven track record of leadership on many difficult issues over the years that has helped to produce the successful community that Halton Hills is

today."

"I genuinely like people," says Mr. Day, "and I like helping improve their lives, be it skateboard parks, soccer fields, youth centres, transportation and housing for seniors, policing, or helping build a sense of community spirit and ownership. I have a vision of our community and what critical things we must do to set it right for the long term."

## Discover Hilton Falls

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Hilton Falls Conservation Area can easily be described as North Halton's best kept secret. The 645-hectare park is a large forest complex that offers rich habitats for a wide assortment of animals and plants. A world biosphere reserve, Hilton Falls offers stroller-accessible trails to the 10-metre falls, a reservoir and a beaver dam.

There are 16 miles of hiking, mountain biking and cross-country ski trails, as well as fishing for large-mouth bass in the reservoir and brook trout in the Sixteen Mile Creek. One and two-day horseback tours are offered by Whinny Acres. "We ride a lot along the Niagara Escarpment rock formations, and it's quite picturesque," says Whinny Acres' Marion Shannon. "It gives

you a totally different perspective on horseback than you would get from hiking the trail. You don't need to concentrate on your footing, you can let the horse do that, and you're free to enjoy the marvelous view."

Hilton Falls also offers a historic mill site with an interpretive viewing area at the waterfall, a visitor centre with concessions, and a variety of geologic and wetland features. There is also a picnic area and fire ring at the falls.

Located off Campbellville Sideroad, Hilton Falls opens daily at 8:30 a.m. Admission costs are \$3.75 for adults, \$2.50 for children aged five to 14, free for children four and under, and \$3.00 for seniors.

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English Horse Show - 9 a.m.  
Halton 4-H Rabbit Show - 9 a.m.  
Junior Dairy Show - 11 a.m.  
Demolition Derby - 7:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
Poultry Show - 9:30 a.m.  
Heavy Horse Show - 10 a.m.  
Pony Mounted Games Show - 10 a.m.  
Children's Pet Show - 10:30 a.m.  
Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull - Noon  
Demolition Derby - 1:30 p.m.

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