

First year on Council revealing: Somerville

Meet The Town of Halton Hills Ward 1 Elected Representatives

Clark Somerville
Personal Information
Age: 36
Marital Status/Family: Single, father of 16 year old daughter
Occupation: Assistant Food and Beverage Manager of Blue Springs Golf Course
Number Of Terms On Council: 1st term
Special Committees: Halton Regional Conservation Authority, Acton BIA, Site Plan, Special Purposes, The Mayors Youth Advisory Committee, Millenium Committee
Years Living In Acton: 36

(Somerville did note that he tries to help with the Youth Drop-in Centre that is trying to be established in Acton).

5. Aside from convenience store items, what was the last item you purchased from an Acton merchant?
Groceries at IGA on Monday and I bought lunch at Subways today (Tuesday).

6. In the past there has been some friction between Georgetown and Acton. Do you think it is difficult for Acton's voice to be heard on council?

With the council we have right now, no. It's because the council that is there right now looks at it as what is best for the town as a whole.

7. What changes would you like to see for Acton to move into the next century and still keep its identity?

We need economic development and residential development here. It's healthier to get a balance.

8. For an evening out, which would you choose: movie, concert, sporting event or theatre?

A lot of it depends. It would more than likely be a movie. I want to see Pleasantville. I just finished watching Wild Things on video the other night.

9. Everyone has someone they look to for advice or as a listening post. Who is yours?

My mother, she is such an intelligent lady. Second would be my boss Murray Macnabb.

10. What surprised you the most about being a new councillor?

The amount of paper.

11. In regards to council meetings, some people have observed that it appears that not all councillors are giving their full attention to the issues. For example, one Georgetown councillor was seen reading during the old Acton arena debate. Also, sometimes people have mentioned concern about the 'sidebars' you and councillor Kuiack have. Is this a misinterpretation of your attention to the situation or



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how would you put their minds at ease?

I am actually quite lucky, John Day is sitting on one side and Kevin (Kuiack). I'm leaning over and saying, or he's saying, "What was it they said". When you're sitting there, you don't always hear it as exact. And also with the microphone system it is not always clear. We're usually talking to each other for clarification. And the same with John Day on the other side. I usually ask Kevin first.

12. After being elected, what is the biggest political accomplishment and what was the one decision that caused you the most thought and/or stress?

The accomplishment is the harder one. It's not like I was on a platform, but I was happy to see Bill Manes on the way (with the Home Hardware development). I gave him a little bit of help where I could, but it was just doing my job with what he needed help with. The one thing that caused the biggest stress has been the debate on the old arena because of the misinformation.

13. What was the last magazine and book you read?

National Geographic; I get it monthly and the Halton Conservation Authority Book, which is a wonderful book.

14. Do you think the privatization of garbage and blue box pick up has been more or less effective in respects to cost and service?

That is a regional one, but I recall when we were doing our budget debate in the spring, there was a decrease coming to the urban areas of the town and that was directly attributed to waste disposal. As far as picking it up, there are people concerned the trucks are going by so fast, so early, but I find it about the same.

15. The Olde Hide House is perhaps the largest single force promoting Acton (in conjunction with their business). What place or event would you recommend for visitors to attend in the area other than the Olde Hide House?

One of the big draws downtown is places like the Doll Emporium. Outside that it would be the Mills in the Glen, Glen Eden/Kelso, Chudleighs, and Saunders Bakery for jelly doughnuts. If I'm off on a Saturday, that's the place I'll go. Their jelly doughnuts are phenomenal.

16. One of the items facing Halton Hills council is the development of the 401 corridor. What do you think should be included in this development?

I'm hoping we can attract a corporate head office as an

anchor, especially early in the process.

17. One of the members of the committee of adjustments has recently resigned and stated one of the reasons for this was the slow pace in which 'the town' moves on some issues. Do you think some of the bureaucracy could be streamlined?

Yes, and I know the CAO has been looking at streamlining measures. One of the issues he has started with is streamlining the site plans process.

18. How are you spending the Christmas holidays?

Christmas Eve, I have to watch the Grinch (How the Grinch Stole Christmas).

Christmas Day I get together with my mom and go to my brothers or my aunt and uncles. It's pretty low-key, just hang out with family.

19. Do you think you will ever run for mayor?

I don't know. I know Marilyn (Mayor Serjeantson) puts in a lot of hours. I told Julian Reed, one of the first times I saw him, to keep my seat warm because I want it and I actually said the same thing to Ted Chudleigh. I think provincial or federal. As far as Mayor... anything is possible, but I would have to wait for her (Mayor Serjeantson) to resign first and I don't think she has any intention of doing that for quite a few more terms.

1. What do you feel is the most important issue before council today?

The biggest one for Halton Hills as a whole right now is the upcoming OMB hearing for the Georgetown South Industrial Land. It's one that if the OMB will let them put houses in that area, it could be 9,000 people as well as the town losing industrial land.

2. How many hours per week do you spend on the job as councillor? How many of these would be in preparing for council meetings?

It averages 20-25 hours per week as a Councillor and 6-7 hours on average preparing for council meetings.

3. What do you do to 'unwind'?

I enjoy gardening; it's a family trait. Everyone in my family has a green thumb. Golfing, roller blading and I like exploring the internet and working on computers and that's something that can be totally frustrating or totally unwinding. I will also read my council agenda to unwind or I'll read Friday's paper because I didn't get a chance to finish reading the whole thing. I also like to cook; I'm a creative cook.

4. Do You Do Any Volunteer Work?

I look at the volunteer work that I do and it gets blended in with council. I don't differentiate that. That's part and parcel.



GRADUATES: Three local insurance brokers received their certificates and lapel pins as recent graduates of the Canadian Accredited Broker Insurance Program (CAIB) at the annual convention of the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario. Left to right, Barb Davies, Brenda Schrepf (Honours) and Wilma DeBruyn completed the professional development course over two years and wrote four national exams to obtain the CAIB designation.

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