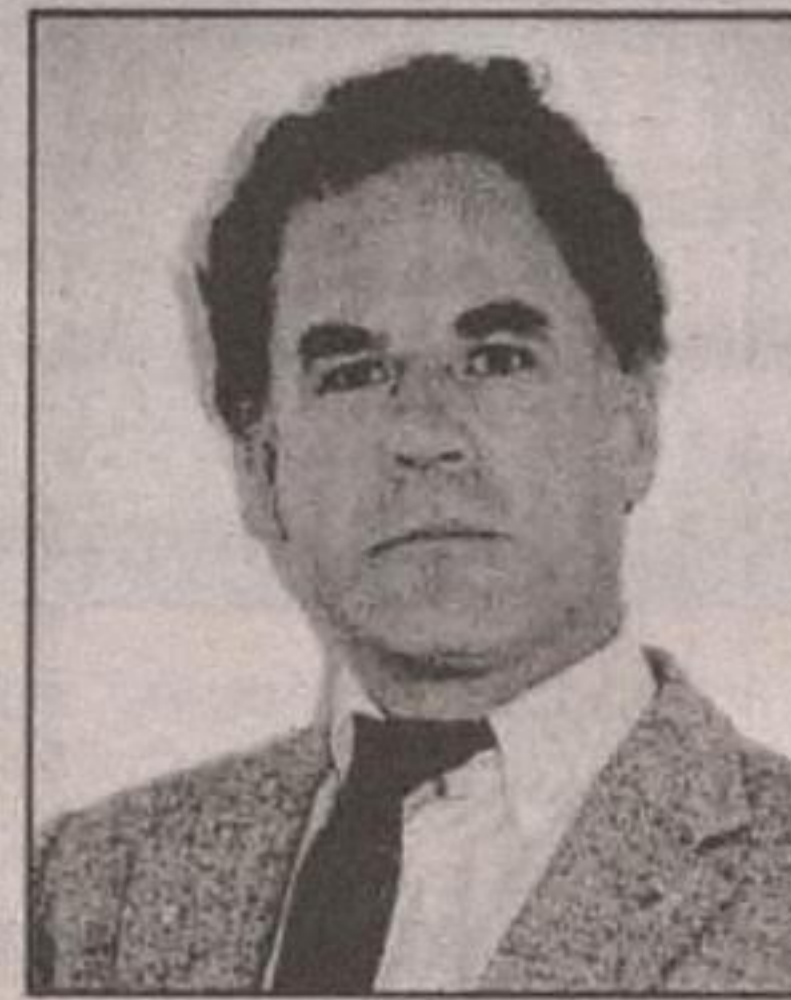


MAYORAL Candidates answer questions



Kathy Gastle



Rob Heaton



Marilyn Serjeantson

1: Faced with the threat of GTA urban sprawl, how will you protect the rural character and prime agricultural land in Halton Hills?

Preservation of rural character and residential and industrial development are not mutually exclusive if a planning process incorporating urban design guidelines and competitive negotiation is put in place. Future industrial commercial land designation must not infringe on our high yield agricultural lands. I will protect those lands with the strong protection policies in our updated official plan.

Robert believes that agricultural lands are critical to the long term social, economic and environmental health of our community. Robert Heaton believes that agriculture must be united, not just responding to perceived negative comments from the public.

Halton Hills and Halton Region usually only develop within urban boundaries. We are reviewing both official plans and citizens need to participate and express their views, as it will be a community plan.

2: Would you support a tax increase to offset projected cost overruns for Georgetown recreational facilities. Why? Why not?

Staff will have a report for council on November 9. I agree with the people of Georgetown that this project is badly needed. But if the proposed solution is a tax increase, it will have to be very minimal in order to receive my support.

No. There appears to be other projects scheduled in the year 2000 that may need attention first.

I look at the total needs for Halton Hills and our future growth. The Acton ice time is in growing demand. Council will be listening to all the facts, weighing all the information and making the best decision that meets the needs of the entire community at a special council meeting.

3: What do you see as your role in revitalizing Acton? What is your vision for Acton and how will you make it a reality?

I understand that while Acton needs revitalization – more shopping choices, for example – residents want to preserve its traditions and values. Before formulating any plans, I want to sit down with the councillors and residents so they can voice their needs.

Working with the new local councillors. Listen to local citizens and act for the people like I did for rural Acton for nine years.

Acton is a caring community - a great place to live, work, raise your family and is a super tourist destination. I have a vision for good shopping opportunities (a 30,000 sq. ft. supermarket is to open next year) and work choices. I see the downtown stores occupied and busy.

4: What talent and skills will make you an effective strong voice at the council table? How will you be accountable to the voters?

With nine years in municipal government – two as regional councillor – I have strong leadership skills, a proven record of getting things done, and the background knowledge of key issues facing our town.

The people can rely on my past record of being a strong voice for the rural Acton area. By electing me as their MAYOR.

I have the experience, the knowledge, the commitment and the respect to make a difference. I write a newspaper column once a month, have taped Council meetings and have an Internet site www.mayormarilyn which I intend to keep. I will facilitate information newsletters for council.

5: Closing comment.

Seeing the big picture is important and recognizing that members of council will have priorities too, I will be in the forefront of good governance. I believe that a quarterly report to the public with key issues and progress is a priority.

This will serve as confirmation that Francis(sic) Niblock advised me that she will NOT give me equal space equal to that already given to the other two MAYOR candidates.

I have the experience, the accomplishments, the track record and the commitment. I am the best choice for Mayor. Acton sees me, Acton knows me and Acton knows that I care. E.g. Community involvement (Community Champion, Dick O'Brien Series and Acton Concerns Group at the High School and Middle school.

Little interest shown at all-candidates meeting

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hear the three candidates in the race for chair of Halton Region – this is the first election that voters elect the chair who until now has been appointed by Halton Council.

In her opening statement, Burlington resident Lisa Cooper, questioned Halton's claim that development pays for itself

"I'm not proposing stopping development, but managing it," Cooper, said, adding Halton is wasting \$100-million replacing water mains in Oakville, money better spent on policing and transportation.

Carrying a wooden staff and talking of Bible parables, Halton chair candidate Anne Marsden of Oakville, said incumbent chair Joyce Savoline's public relations people paint a rosy picture of

Halton's current state, but not everybody is fooled.

"My audit skills are needed to determine the real state of the Region before we can get on with the task of restoration and excelling as we should," Marsden said.

In her opening statement Savoline stressed the importance of the 401 industrial corridor to the future of Halton Hills.

"Under my leadership we will hold several public meetings to ensure that prestigious corridor for industrial development is carefully planned," Savoline said.

Each of the mayoral candidates was asked how they would handle the potential \$2 million cost over run for the Alcott arena twinning in Georgetown.

Kathy Gastle, the current ward 2 councillor said staff are reporting to council today (Thursday) and the project is necessary, but didn't answer the question.

"I'm hoping that this Thursday when the debate finishes, we'll have a majority supporting moving forward."

Heaton drew claps from several in the audience when he answered, "Well, basically, I wasn't on the council for the last three years, squandering the reserves, so it's not my problem..."

Incumbent Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson is looking to staff for the answer.

"Hopefully our financial officer will have come up with a few more ways of managing this. I'm determined to see it work and I really believe we will find a way."

ACTON WARD 1 & WARD 2 Polling Subdivisions

