

## Sign up now if you want to run municipally

Although the municipal election won't be held until November 10, area residents can sign up now for positions they will run for.

The nomination period for the upcoming election began April 1 and will close October 10 when nominations are certified. Dorothy McDonald, Halton Hills deputy clerk, said to date no one has filed nomination papers with the town clerk's office.

This election there will be two fewer regional councillor jobs up for grabs as Halton Hills representation at the region was cut by two spots. In November, voters will elect one regional councillor to represent Wards 1 and 2, and one for Wards 3 and 4. There will be eight local council spots (two for each ward) open as well as the mayor's job.

Four hydro commissioner jobs (one for each ward) will be available. The mayor also sits on the hydro commission and at Halton region.

At this point it's unknown how many school board trustee

jobs will be available as the provincial government's Bill 104, which hasn't been passed yet, calls for fewer trustees.

Local councillor jobs come with an annual salary of \$11,611, regional councillors and the mayor receive an additional \$18,704 plus \$1,329 in benefits each year. The mayor also receives a salary of \$39,322, plus \$3,074 for hydro commission duties. Currently public school board trustees receive \$12,900 annually and separate school board trustees receive \$12,483, however under Bill 104 that salary could be reduced to a maximum of \$5,000. Currently all elected municipal officials receive one third of their salary tax free but the new municipal act is calling for the elimination of that.

McDonald said the nomination process is slightly different this year than it has been in past elections. In the past candidates had to include the signatures of 10 people who could vote for them on the nomination form, but that step has been eliminated this year. Candidates only have to fill out

the form and sign it in the presence of the clerk's department staff. This year candidates also have to pay \$100 when they file their nomination, in the past there was no charge.

She said candidates will get their money back if they withdraw their nomination, or if they receive at least 2 per cent of the total votes cast for that office.

McDonald said in order to run candidates don't have to live in the ward in which they are seeking office but they have to own property or rent in Halton Hills or have a spouse who does. They also have to be at least 18 years old before voting day, be a Canadian citizen and not be disqualified from holding office.

The new slate of elected officials will take over their posts on December 1 and their term will run three years.

A candidates guide, is available through the clerk's office. For more information visit the office at the Halton Hills Civic Centre or call 873-2600.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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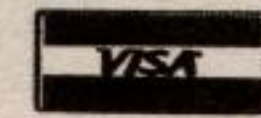
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