

Editorial

# Our choices

**H**alton Hills is at a crossroads. Our sleepy little town with its rustic appeal—a place that's "worth the drive"—is facing a difficult choice: grow up or maintain the status quo.

Planned developments in Georgetown South and Acton, not to mention other areas, will see a marked increase in this town's population over the next 20 years. However, it is now that decisions must be made on how to accommodate such growth. Will we have enough recreational facilities, safe water, schools, retail businesses, infrastructure, etc. to meet the demands that are sure to come?

Residents must realize we cannot expect more of the amenities larger municipalities take for granted if we are not willing to open up our arms to business and the tax dollars they bring. The Hwy. 401 corridor provides us with that opportunity. The challenge in the coming years will be to convince businesses that Halton Hills is THE place to locate.

However, along with the desire to attract business, a significant and vocal part of our community will want assurances the environment will be protected, that we have enough clean water and that our streets do not become even more burdened with traffic.

Council faces a challenge in finding a balance between growth and maintaining the aspects of our town that many find appealing.

Incumbent councillors must stand on their record and, to their credit, have overseen the positive first stages of growth in our town. However, they must also take responsibility for:

- the \$1.8 million spent on Ontario Municipal Board hearings in recent years
- the arena-recreation centre projects which will likely cost much more than expected and will be "bare bones" facilities
- the never-ending traffic concerns of residents
- the poor job done in attracting new business to our town

Below we list our preferred candidates. However, it is crucial you—the voters—make an informed choice when you mark your ballot, irrespective of the opinions of others. Our town's future rests with you.

**Mayor— Marilyn Serjeantson.** The incumbent mayor has been a diligent worker and strong voice for Halton Hills. She understands the community well and deserves another term. However, we would like to see her delegate more duties to council members. Challengers Kathy Gastle and Robert Heaton, both who have served on council, do not offer an improvement over Serjeantson.

**Ward 1— Clark Somerville.** Somerville was an unknown quantity when elected in 1997 but has grown into the job of councillor and been a good representative for Acton. None of the other four candidates vying for the second seat have distinguished themselves in our eyes.

**Wards 1/2 Regional— Rick Bonnette.** Bonnette has done a fine job serving his wards and deserves to be returned. He provides Acton with solid representation.

**Ward 2— Kevin Kuiack and Bryan Lewis.** Of the three candidates, incumbent Kuiack's experience is valued. However, he must move to the forefront more often at council. We prefer Lewis' no-nonsense approach over Joan Robson's passion.

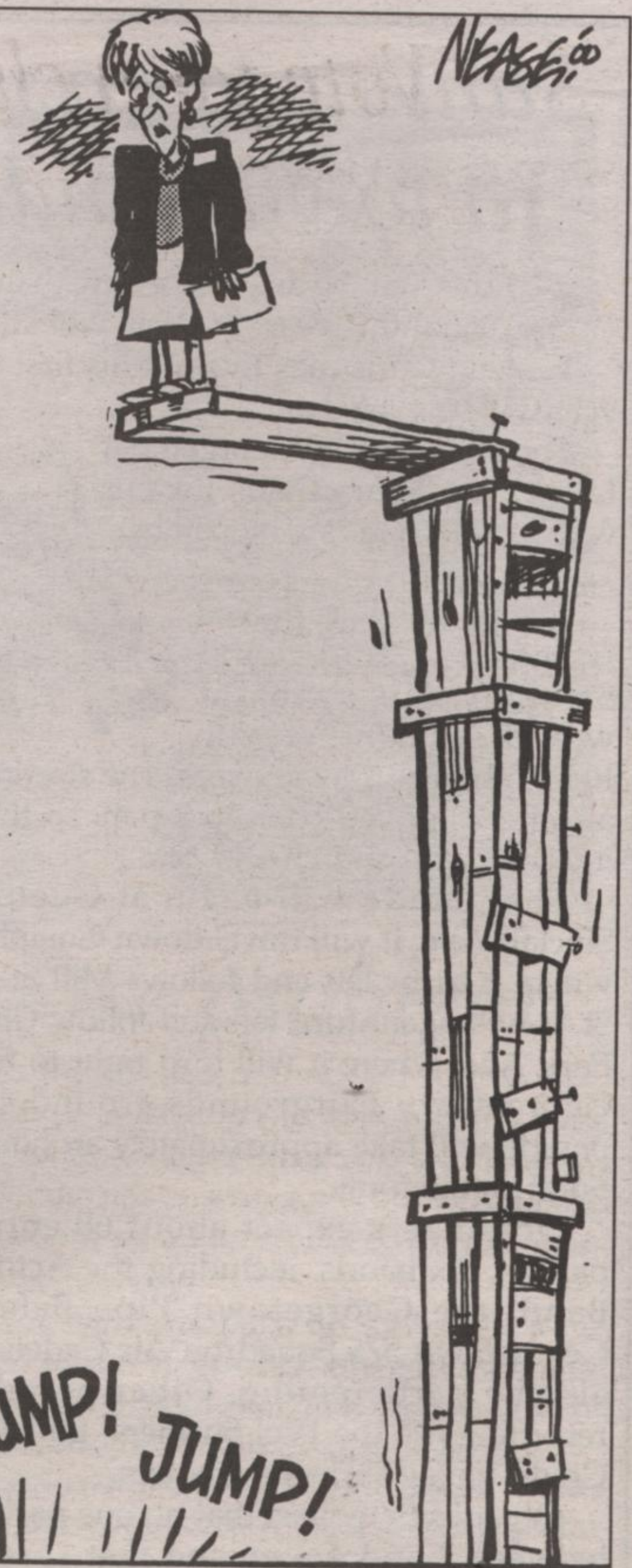
**Ward 3— Moya Johnson and Jane Fogal.** If it's not broken, why fix it? Johnson and Fogal are good representatives although their tendency to declare conflicts of interest on some development matters hurts their effectiveness.

**Ward 4— Ron Chatten and Bob Inglis.** Council veteran Chatten, an effective representative, should be returned. Inglis, now completing his first term, needs to be more assertive, but deserves a second term.

**Halton Region Chair— Joyce Savoline.** Savoline is the complete package— intelligent, passionate, caring. She can give lessons on what it takes to be a good municipal politician.

**Halton District Catholic School Board Trustee— Irene McCauley.** She has served the board for 20 years... and served well.

## THE NDP ELECTION PLATFORM IS BUILT ON CARING, COMPASSION, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CANADIAN...



### Letters to the editor...

## Mayor entitled to wear chain of office

Dear editor,

Re: Complaint filed against mayor (Nov. 1 Independent & Free Press).

As a relatively new resident of Georgetown, I have made a conscious effort to read all election information that is available in order to make an informed decision on election day.

Although I am still undecided, I was not impressed with Robert Heaton's view that Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson's wearing of her

chain of office was wrong and should disqualify her from the mayoralty race. I feel the residents of Halton Hills, in choosing Ms. Serjeantson as their mayor, gave her all the authority she needs to wear her chain of office until Nov. 30 when the term expires.

I would like to respond to Mr. Heaton's action by suggesting he let the citizens of Halton Hills decide for themselves, on Nov. 13, who should be disqualified.

G. Compton, Georgetown

## Teachers know best

Dear editor,

I would like to direct this letter to R. J. Summers who wrote in response to Gladys Carter's letter Oct. 20.

This is how I define ignorance— when a photocopier repair person feels he know more about education than the thousands of dedicated educators who are on the front lines teaching in over-crowded and under-funded classrooms.

I hope you don't repair photocopiers in medical offices... surely you wouldn't hesitate to tell the surgeon how to perform an operation.

Aldona Morrison, Georgetown

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All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

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