

Municipal election 2000 profiles

The Independent & Free Press contacted the candidates for the November 13, 2000 municipal election and asked them to convey, in 125 words or less, their message to the voters of Halton Hills.

On this page and the two following we reprint those responses.

As of our Oct. 31 deadline, no submissions were received from candidates Jake Kuiken (Ward 1), Derrick Williams (Ward 4) or Anne Marsden and Lisa Cooper (regional chair).

Decision day draws near

Voters in Halton Hills will head to the polls Monday, Nov. 13 for the municipal election and judging by the signs located at the many street corners voters will have some tough choices to make. A total of 24 candidates are running for the local council, school board and region chair seats. See the Wednesday, Nov. 15 Independent & Free Press for complete coverage.

Photo by Ted Brown



Mayor

Kathy Gastle

Occupation: Social worker
Previous political experience: Ward 2 councillor (nine years, including two as regional councillor)
 During nine years service in municipal government, two as regional councillor, I have developed the leadership skills necessary to bring much needed industrial and commercial growth to Acton and Georgetown while protecting our homeowners, our farmland and our natural heritage. As mayor I would work for a future where growth is managed in a positive and orderly way, guidelines are made—and kept—for development, taxpayers' dollars are not wasted at Ontario Municipal Board hearings, our vital transportation needs are met and groundwater resources and purity are of a major concern. Vote for a leader with a vision and a proven record for getting things done. I look forward to the challenges ahead as we lead Halton Hills to new heights of excellence.



Ward 1

Diane Biggs

Occupation: Human resources manager
Previous political experience: None
"It's worth the drive to Acton."
 For a town with such a catchy slogan, it's a shame that we can't seem to keep up with it. I would like to see Acton grow to today's standards and flourish with new businesses and more families. As it stands right now, there are only — businesses that have remained for five-plus years. The youth of Acton have no sense of pride or belonging because Acton doesn't offer anything to them. If you don't drive or have a car in Acton, you're out of luck if you want to go into Milton. My focus is to change all of that. The first step in my plan is to start with the business district. More businesses=more opportunity.

photo not provided

Clark Somerville

Occupation: Food and beverage manager
Previous political experience: Ward 1 councillor (three years)
 I am seeking re-election because I enjoy working with people and finding solutions to their problems. It is important to have continuity at council. It has been an honour to serve you. With the limited growth about to occur in Acton it is important to have someone who has a good working relationship with the Acton developers as well as the town and regional staff. I will work to ensure it occurs in an orderly fashion. The town must expand our parks and recreation facilities to meet our growing needs at a cost we can afford. We must continue to develop the 401 industrial corridor. The Economic Development Officer must be given the tools needed to attract industrial and commercial businesses into town.



Robert Heaton

Occupation: Freelance computer consultant
Previous political experience: Ward 2 councillor (nine years)
 Someone needs to be protecting Halton Hills from the Halton Region-led onslaught of development. In Stewarttown the region hired a contractor this year to put in a sewer line. In my own neighbourhood they destroyed my neighbours wells while going around telling the public that they are protecting local aquifers. Fiction is not equal to reality down at the region or here in Halton Hills. They want to come back and do a water line next year. The problem still exists. We are worried what's coming next year. I was outspoken for local issues on Halton Hills council. Georgetown South people have many problems that haven't been resolved. Acton people have unresolved problems as well. As mayor, I will be the people's voice.



Dorson (Dobbie) Frizzell

Occupation: Retired
Previous political experience: Halton Hills Hydro commissioner (nine years)
 I promise to have a strong voice for the voters of Ward 1 Halton Hills (Acton) and will be available for questions or concerns you have to discuss with me. The proposed developments for the new housing is a main concern for all Acton citizens and I will work for you to see the completion of these projects. I have been on the restructuring committee for Halton Hills Hydro in the change to the new Halton Hills Hydro Inc. with the town, and I have a good understanding of how this company will operate. In the future plans for the old Beardmore property I would like to see land available to attract light industry to our town of Acton.



Wards 1/2 (Regional)

Rick Bonnette

Occupation: Travel and tourism instructor at Humber College
Previous political experience: Wards 1/2 regional councillor (18 years)
 During the past term, I have had the job of representing the combined regional wards of 1 (Acton) and 2 (Esquesing). I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you and we have worked together resolving many issues. I feel it is important to have an experienced voice at both the local and regional level. Safety of our drinking water is not an option. The Halton Management Aquifer Plan must be implemented. The Official Plan review will affect Ward 2 the most. You must get involved in the public process. Residential/commercial growth in Acton must be seen through if Acton is to continue to become a vibrant community. Tax dollars must be directed to improve the quality and safety of both rural and town roads.



Marilyn Serjeantson

Occupation: Mayor
Previous political experience: Seventeen years town councillor, six years mayor
 I have a solid track record, experience, dedication, integrity and commitment. I intend to preserve our caring, prosperous town. I promise continued responsible budget management at the region and the town. Safe, fresh water is fundamental. I support wells that are compatible with a healthy environment. Acton's (\$7 million) water and sewage systems and Georgetown's water quality will be upgraded. I ensure the revised Official Plan policies will strengthen our urban and environmental guidelines to protect our natural heritage and quality of life. Participate! My strengthened business links and my vision for economic development (1,000 industrial acres 401 corridor) are essential for a vital community. I will improve our roads, services and reach for our recreation amenity's goal. The locomotion campaign has raised \$1.75 million.

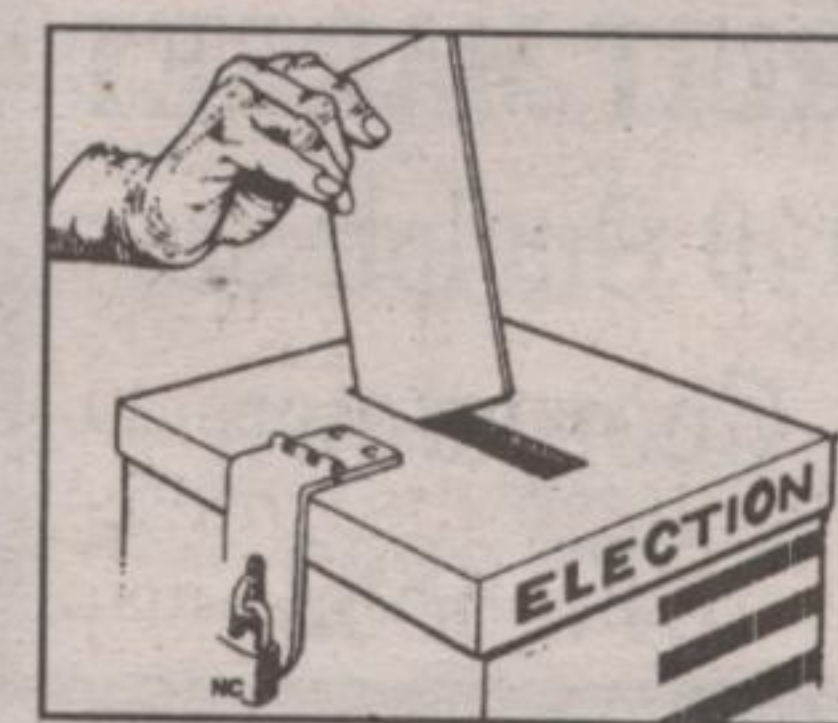


Stephen G. Grasby

Occupation: CNC machinist
Previous political experience: None
 As an activist, I take yet another step forward. I offer my candidacy and my services to our community. Leaving my mark in both Acton and Georgetown, I thank the individuals who assisted me in my ventures. I have a vision for a safe and prosperous town. Being aware and in touch with the events and issues of our community, I will continue to make a difference long after the election. The rail crossings, keeping the town limited in size based upon water availability and improving our infrastructure to serve the people best are my goals. I hope my children will learn the benefits of democracy and find the strength and courage to continue the efforts to keep the dream alive.



Profiles continued on pg. 9



Be sure to vote
 Monday,
 Nov. 13