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Getting the kid glove treatment

Brittany Geddes-Sargeant, 8, of the Acton Jiu-Jitsu Club winces as she takes a punch from an opponent during her sparring at the club's annual meet held Saturday at the Acton Arena and Recreation Centre.



Photo by Stephen Uhraney

Home, Lawn & Garden 8-page section inside



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Day to challenge for mayor's job

Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle will have some competition in the upcoming municipal election with the announcement yesterday by Regional Councillor John Day that he is entering the mayor's race.

Georgetown resident Day, 55, a Wards 3 and 4 regional councillor for the past eight years, planned to file his nomination papers this morning (Wednesday), after announcing his candidacy among his supporters last night at St. Andrew's United Church.

Day, convicted in Oshawa court last November of impaired driving, said, "after the events of last fall many people have urged me to continue in public life and run for the mayor's position."

After he was charged, Day stepped down as Halton's provincial Liberal candidate and resigned from the Halton Regional Police Services Board, a position he had held since 1998.

He said that the impaired driving

charge opened his eyes to the fact he had a drinking problem.

"I sought help, I sought guidance. Alcohol is not a part of my life," said Day who has been attending Alcoholics Anonymous and plans to continue.

"I'm exceedingly grateful that I've confronted it and I've dealt with it. I don't have anything to hide and I'm a better person for it," said Day, who has been sober for eight months.

He made the decision to enter the mayor's race after going on a retreat in March.

Day would not reveal his campaign platform yet, but said many are aware of his issues— people, housing, transportation, youth, seniors, industrial growth and



JOHN DAY

how the town links with the region and the rest of the Greater Toronto Area.

"I'd like to think I have a good chance. I'm going forward as the people's mayor. It's people first in my agenda. I've always worked that way."

Day said he plans to begin campaigning right away and added that he will continue to do his job as regional councillor throughout the campaign. Day's driver's licence was suspended for a year and he said he will be cycling, walking, and many supporters have offered to drive him while he is campaigning.

Day, a landscape architect who works on a consultant basis, is also employed part-time in nursery sales for Sheridan Nurseries. He also worked for the City of Mississauga for 17 years, and served as the city's director of open space planning.

Day and his wife Gretchen have two children.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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