

All town councillors on board for November election

Only two newcomers have filed papers as 13 candidates seek municipal posts

They all want to come back, but not necessarily to their current jobs.

All 11 members of Halton Hills council have now filed their nomination papers to run in the November municipal election.

On Friday, two more veteran councillors filed their nomination papers— Ron Chatten and Bob Inglis both for Ward 4 local council, their current positions. Monday two other council members signed on to run again for their current posts— Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson for Ward 2 local council and on Tuesday Moya Johnson filed for her current job of Ward 3 councillor.

Also running again are Mayor Kathy Gastle, who is going after another term as mayor and Councillors John Day and Rick Bonnette who are also vying for the mayor's job. Ward 1 Councillor Clark Somerville is running for the Wards 1 and 2 regional position along with political newcomer Drew Riedstra. Ward 1 Councillor Dobbie Frizzell is seeking re-election while Ward 3 Councillor Jane Fogal wants the Wards 3 and 4 regional council spot. Newcomer Dawn Falls is running for the Ward 3 local post.

As of Tuesday, that brings the total number of candidates for the 11 positions to 13.

Chatten, currently in his fourth term on council, said he has decided to run

again because there are many issues such as the Fire Master Plan and Road Needs Study he would like to see through to completion.

"I really feel this term it's been a good council, an effective council, we've dealt with a lot of issues," said Chatten, a retired elementary school principal.

"We have to put an emphasis back on streets again now that we have the major facilities done," said Chatten, who added the town needs to look at how it provides customer service and the organization of its departments.

Inglis, a technical advisor at Mold-Masters, said he has enjoyed his past two terms on council.

"We've seen the arena concluded so to speak. I would like to see the rec centre finished off," he said.

He added that he wants to remain on council through the completion of the Official Plan process, which he expects will be later this year. Strengthening of environmental policies and protection of farmland are two key issues for Inglis.

Bryan Lewis, currently in his first term, announced his intention to seek re-election for the Ward 2 council seat on Monday.

"I have enjoyed my time on council, serving the Town of Halton Hills, in particular the association with the Esquering/rural residents of Halton

Hills," said Lewis, a former National Hockey League official and Director of Officiating. "Rural Halton Hills is a very diverse and spread out community. You represent the farming community, rural residents, entrepreneurs and manufacturing industries all the while participating in the best interests of all residents of Halton Hills."

"I have made every effort to address issues raised by the rural residents and am prepared to continue to assist them in the appropriate manner," he said.

Joan Robson, who is also completing her first term on council, said she decided to announce her candidacy after much deliberation.

"Working in the rural community has given me a great deal of personal satisfaction and I find every call interesting,"

said Robson of Glen Williams. "Each issue has brought new challenges. The farming community brings with those challenges the greatest breadth of history."

Robson, who operates an interior decorating business, said in this term she was pleased to have chaired the Glen Secondary Plan Steering Committee and initiated expansion of the property standards bylaw. She added, with Councillor Rick Bonnette and Lewis through their work on the Site Alteration Committee, they were able to eliminate excessive truck traffic on rural roads caused by site infilling.

At press time Moya Johnson, who is in her third term as Ward 3 local councillor, was not available for comment.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Acton subdivision plan redrawn

Market pressures have forced an Acton developer to redraw the West Meadows Phase 3 subdivision plan on Wallace St.

The new plan calls for the elimination of the 35 condominium townhouses and the increase of single detached homes from 18 to 33 and freehold street townhouses from 26 to 42. A 139-unit apartment building geared to seniors will also continue as planned.

Bruce Donaldson, representing the developer, Frank Heller & Co. and Fred Dawkins, said, "The changes to

the plan were market-driven."

He said since draft approval was given in 2000, sales have been "quite brisk" for the single-family homes and the freehold townhouses and that is the driving force behind the revision.

"The changes are positive," Donaldson said. As a result, the town's Wallace St. Park will now have a about 200 ft. frontage onto the subdivision, rather than the 15-ft. frontage proposed in the earlier plan.

Final approval for the revisions is expected to be given by council at a June council meeting.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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