

## Former mayor jumps into mayoralty race

Halton Hills voters have the choice of two candidates for mayor who have actual experience at the job with the addition of former mayor Marilyn Serjeantson to the race.

Other candidates vying for the position include current Mayor Kathy Gastle and regional councillors John Day and Rick Bonnette.

Serjeantson, mayor of the town from 1994 to 2000, filed her nomination papers on Friday, the last day for candidates to file.

The longtime council member, who lost the mayor's job to Kathy Gastle in the 2000 election by approximately 500 votes, said over the past several months members of the public have often encouraged her to run.

"I think I have a record of listening to people in the past and being fair at how I manage issues," said Serjeantson, who has several issues she would like to tackle as mayor.

One of those issues is user fees.

"I know there's a real concern about the 50 per cent increase in the costs for fields," said Serjeantson. "People want to make sure they have the service that goes along with that increase."

Leadership is another issue said Serjeantson, who referred to "the whole mystery about the CAO (resignation of the Chief Administrative Officer)." She believes there was a "lack of communication within members of council over the issue." If elected, she added she would like to "develop a real strong council team."

Serjeantson, who said she worked hard to get the 401 Corridor in place, would like to see it move forward. "If there's one thing this town needs it's additional economic development and there's our ticket."

Other issues she plans to address include roads and traffic gridlock, the need for more GO service, and trimming costs at the town to redirect money for community needs. She added she is "not interested in lake-based water" for growth in the town.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



MARILYN SERJEANTSON

## Eight candidates file at the deadline for Nov. 10 election

Friday was a busy day at the Town of Halton Hills clerk's office as several last-minute candidates for the Nov. 10 municipal election filed their nomination papers.

New candidates on Friday, the last day to file, included Marilyn Serjeantson for mayor, and council candidates Michael Roy, Jon Hurst, and Sean Haefner for Ward 1, Gerald Parker for Ward 3, and Derrick Williams for Ward 4. Additions to the regional chair race that day were Ric Morrow, Brian Burton and Rob Heaton. Morrow has since withdrawn. Also on Friday, Ward 3 local council candidate Stephen Grasby decided to run for the Ward 3/4 regional councillor position instead.

Grasby said he decided to go for the regional job after the addition of Mike Davis and Gerald Parker to the Ward 3 local council race and because he didn't want to see Jane Fogal acclaimed to the regional post.

Ward 1 candidate Michael Roy, married with three children, has lived in Acton for 10 years and likes the town very much.

"I think I've got something I can offer back to the community with my experience and work," said Roy, a project manager in facility engineering who also worked for 12 years as an engineering analyst for the Region of Peel. He is interested in urban planning, clean water and environmental issues.

Jon Hurst, another candidate for one of the Ward 1 council spots, is a life-long resident of Acton.

He believes he has "the expertise and desire to offer strong representation for the residents of Acton."

Hurst, a founding member of the

Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament, and organizer and chairman of the Acton Terry Fox Run, formerly worked at Eagle Ottawa Leather and recently resumed his electrical business in Acton.

"I know there are many issues which concern Acton citizens, such as the yearly budget and tax increases, downtown traffic congestion, road repairs, the 911 issues regarding the loss of our heritage due to the renaming of streets and needed youth facilities.

Sean Haefner is another late addition to the Ward 1 race.

The lifelong Acton resident, who is married with six children, said he is very committed to Acton and wants to ensure it maintains its identity and "some of the town's older values are maintained."

The contractor/renovator, who also does computer repairs, said he wants to make sure that industrial, commercial and residential growth in the town is in balance.

Gerald Parker is the newest addition to the Ward 3 local council race.

"Our town, our money and our community's vision and interests have been seriously mismanaged

and now is the time for real leadership, fortitude and expertise to fix the problems and meet the challenges of our future in Ward 3 and Halton Hills," said Parker who runs his own business advising government leaders on infrastructure development, and is chair of the board for Beyond Ability.

Parker, who is married with three children, believes the town needs to provide safe infrastructure, and environments and services for children to play and learn, and that public officials should be held accountable.

Derrick Williams is in the Ward 4 race with incumbents Bob Inglis and Ron Chatten.

Williams, a 35-year Halton Hills resident and retired businessman, wants to give something back to the community.

"I'm sick and tired of seeing our taxes being wasted on things like Mayor Gastle's bridge over Cedarvale for the Queen, and the waste down in Willow Park for the bridge we put there. That's another waste," said Williams, who is married and has two children and seven grandchildren.

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## HARP hosts municipal election all-candidates meeting tonight

The Hornby Association of Rate Payers (HARP) will hosts an All-Candidates Meeting for Ward 2 local candidates, Wards 1/2 regional candidates, mayoralty candidates and Halton Region chair candidates.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m. at Hornby Glen Golf Club.

Candidates will be given five minutes to outline their platform, followed by a question period.

With hot topics such as urban development, Official Plans (regional and town) and garbage collection currently in the news, Ken Lawday, HARP president says he is expecting a lively meeting.

## Councillors say they did not contravene conflict of interest rules

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Councillor Joan Robson, had the unusual step of being a recorded vote. Voting for the motion (that the confidential verbal report from Johnson regarding litigation or potential litigation be accepted and that staff proceed as directed) resulted in a split council, 6-5. Voting for the motion were: Johnson, Robson, Lewis, Fogal, and Councillors Rick Bonnette and Clark Somerville. Voting against: Mayor Kathy Gastle and Councillors Ron Chatten, John Day, Dobbie Frizzell, and Bob Inglis.

Three days later on July 10, council learned about Andrews' resignation at a 7:30 a.m. meeting and accepted it later that day at a 5:30 p.m. meeting.

Johnson, Fogal and Lewis all have recorded conflicts of interest with issues involving North Halton Golf and Country Club—none were declared at the July 7 in-camera meeting, but were declared during the open part of the meeting when McNally spoke.

Johnson angrily interrupted Thompson twice to denounce the alleged charge and insist no rules were broken.

"There are allegations being made against me ... I had a conflict on the item (McNally), and I never discussed or made any motion to that effect either in-camera or in council," Johnson said that night.

Whenever an in-camera item is discussed which a councillor has a conflict with, he/she always leaves the



MOYNA JOHNSON

room, and that action is recorded by the town clerk, Johnson explained. Johnson confirmed with *The Independent & Free Press* that the motion did not have anything to do with David McNally and the North Halton Golf and Country Club. She would not confirm whether the discussion involved Steve Andrews on another matter.

"I cannot answer that... because I am not at liberty to discuss any motion we have in-camera," Johnson said.

"I felt that Ted (Thompson)

had put two issues into one concern that should not and were never discussed as one issue, namely the leaving of Steve Andrews and Mattamy Homes development on the Eighth Line and the concerns raised by North Halton Golf and Country Club," Lewis told *The Independent & Free Press*. "... This never happened during any part of the process, whether (as) an in-camera discussion (or) in the council chamber ... the two issues are entirely separate."

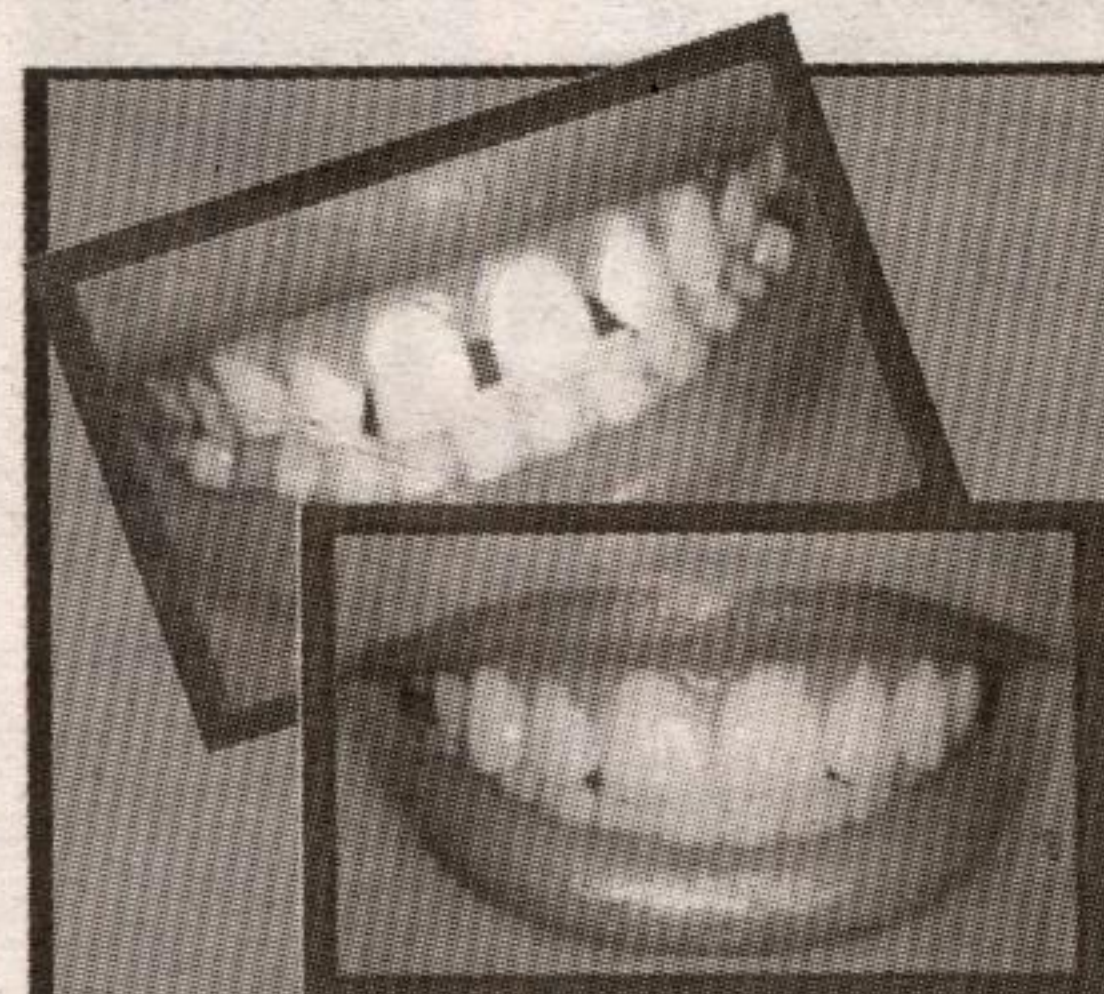
At any meetings regarding the Mattamy Homes/North Halton golf course discussions Lewis said he either left the council chamber or meeting room or did not participate in the discussion (if it was a public meeting).

Fogal did the same, she said. "Basically Ted does not know what we talked about and on the issue that we talked about, I did not have a conflict," the Ward 3 councillor told *The Independent & Free Press*.

"He (Thompson) has left something floating out there. Basically, we did what we were supposed to do and didn't do what we shouldn't have done, and everything was above board," Fogal said.

During his rambling speech on council financial accountability, Thompson warned council that he has asked the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to investigate his conflict of interest allegations.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



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