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Who will be mayor?

This year's municipal election—and particularly the race for mayor in Halton Hills—is perhaps the most exciting since 1974 when regional government was brought in.

Beginning today and continuing in the Friday, Oct 31 edition we will profile all the candidates seeking election Monday, Nov. 10.

Between them, the four candidates for mayor have served more than 60 years on council and includes a current mayor (Kathy Gastle), former mayor (Marilyn Serjeantson) and two longtime regional councillors (Rick Bonnette and John Day).

Today on pages 4 and 5 we offer in-depth profiles on the four mayoral candidates after they met for a question-and-answer session with our editorial department.

In Friday's edition look for responses from all other candidates as we ask them to relay their election message to the voters.



Pumpkinfest fun

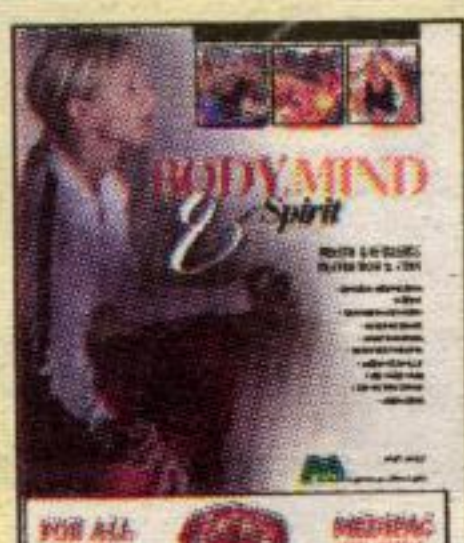
Limehouse Memorial Hall hosted Pumpkin Fest Saturday as the clock ticked down toward Halloween. Children of all ages were treated to a variety of fun events that ranged from pumpkin bowling to seed spitting. (Left) Magician Michael Arbeiter gave it his all as he attempted to eat donuts off a string while (below) Sandy Wilson, 9, from Limehouse, excelled at tossing bags at a wooden target.

Photos by Trish England



Making a splash in Vegas ...pg. 3

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Mayoral candidates square off in debate

Scores of potential voters were turned away at the door to the John Elliott Theatre with about 300 residents crammed inside to listen to the four mayoral candidates debate last night (Tuesday).

Residents had crowded the auditorium by 7 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. event hosted by the Canadian Federation of University Women—Georgetown. Many who arrived later than 7:15 p.m. had to be told to go home.

Cogeco 14 will be airing the two-hour debate tonight (Wednesday) at 9 p.m. and again at 2 p.m. on Thursday and also on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 at various times.

The greatest reaction during the night came from questions and comments concerning the development, growth and protection of the environment in a crowd that favoured candi-

dates John Day and Rick Bonnette, and gave incumbent mayor Kathy Gastle and former mayor Marilyn Serjeantson polite applause.

Day said he is interested in how the new Liberal provincial government decision-making to stop development in the Oak Ridges Moraine could have a similar effect on Georgetown's Arbor Valley and Hungry Hollow Ravine developments.

Gastle said those are "empty promises" and that development was approved years ago in the Official Plan, adding the money generated will play for town services. Bonnette agreed, explaining it would have cost taxpayers dollars to fight it at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and the town would likely have lost.

Serjeantson said she would have taken the fight to the OMB anyway.

All candidates agreed they would lobby the provincial government to dismantle the OMB.

To bring more business to town, Gastle said "it doesn't happen overnight, but we have been actively working with our chamber and the business community." She said the town has been many enquiries and is looking to have more industrial land designated with the urban areas. Gastle said council has a strategy in place, "it's there, it's working."

Day disagreed and said the town has to cut red tape and create an economic development commission. Bonnette said he would create a mayor's committee which would include business owners and chamber members. He said development charges should go no higher.

See MAYORAL, pg. 3



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