

Kathy Gastle: Incumbent seeks second term

Age: 51
Occupation: Mayor
Previous elected experience: 12 years (three as mayor)

1. What makes you the best candidate for mayor?

"I have vision, I have integrity, I have financial ability, I have good social skills working with people and I am known by my colleagues and staff that I get things done, and I also engage people to get things done. And I have improved the quality of life for the citizens of the Town of Halton Hills during my three years as mayor."

2. What are the three main issues the town is facing in the next three years and how do you intend to deal with those issues?

"The first big issue is the expansion to Brampton to the east of us (towards our boundaries)— 33,000 people expected...with major road expansions. The impacts will be great and they need to be managed and we need to be proactive in ensuring we minimize the impacts. The province, the region and the municipality have a major role to play in the decision-making of, actually are we in agreement with allowing the impacts to unfold particularly with the transportation network that has been identified to us? So, we have to come to some sort of resolve about that...We must continue to have discussions with respect to the impacts.

The positive issue is the fact, and

I'm very proud of this achievement..., that's bringing the water and wastewater services to our 401/407 gateway along the Corridor... Clearly economic development will take a high priority out of my office...The interest is already there. Developers are already knocking on our door,,and clearly they want to meet the mayor to ensure that this mayor is pro-development and will help development in the corridor proceed expeditiously...

There is some legislation that was put in place by the former government...we have a new Municipal Act... some new guidelines for the municipality...By 2006 we must review all of our bylaws— a major commitment and probably dollars as well for the municipality. So we have to work through a plan of action to ensure our bylaws have been reviewed...Clearly when you are dealing with bylaw changes it affects people's lives and tends to create a lot of interest... I don't think a lot of people realize we have been legislated to do that, it will form a big part of council's agenda..."

3. The Highway 401 Corridor is apparently the town's best opportunity to attract much needed development dollars yet few businesses have expressed desire to locate there at this point. How, specifically would you encourage businesses to set up shop there?



"We already have our strategy in place, which we have been working on particularly in the last year... We have all of our print material ready to go with introduction from the mayor. In fact this material has already been sent out and hence probably why we are getting interest out of the States, so all our major developers across North America have been contacted...We

have one major business in Halton Hills that is interested in locating there...we have our team together...our plan of action is in place...I was instrumental in 1999 in pushing through our local council to get an economic development officer recognizing we needed someone clearly identified as a first point of contact besides my office..."

4. Town CAO Steve Andrews abruptly resigned in July and yet the town is still paying his contract. Many residents have questioned why the town would continue to pay someone who resigned their position and believe they have not heard the whole story. Please comment.

"In actual fact the citizens should know the whole story. I believe they have a right to know the whole story, but the way the legislation has been written under Freedom of Information and in-camera sessions I'm not allowed to disclose the full story. At some point I hope our citizens will know the full story."

Where she stands on...

Smoking bylaw: We should have had a province-wide smoking bylaw so everyone would be treated fairly.

Pesticide use: The federal government should be taking a lead role, which they are, because they are reviewing over 400 pesticide products that they actually regulate, by 2006...The problem I see with us (municipalities) passing them for cosmetic (use), is who is going to monitor the residential use?

Rural garbage pickup: The surveys were sent out to the three hamlet areas...the surveys came back, they wanted garbage pickup and recycling, they will get both...Right now we are doing the same survey in the wider area.

Town tax increases: In the past three years our increase has been the same as cost of living...I personally would like to stay with the cost of living increase in taxes...but our budget process is going to be difficult...(supports the pay-as-you-go concept for municipalities).

Sign bylaw: The town clearly embarked on the town sign bylaw because part of it was portable signs...they were never meant to be put up permanent and so therefore the portable signs did not conform to our existing bylaw, and we actually didn't even have strong guidelines in place for portable signs.

Lake-based water for residential growth: We have an official plan to 2021 that clearly identifies we will be on a well-based service, what I don't know is whether or not the province will allow our municipality to continue to grow on well-based water. Growth is actually out of our control.

Council downsizing/full-time councillors: I personally like the idea of full-time councillors. (Would support downsizing if went to full-time council)

Road improvements: Our council has made roads a number one priority...We've just dealt with a study from staff about designating 2 per cent increase into a roads fund so you accrue those dollars and eventually be able to do more roads in the municipality.

Recreational opportunities: We've done a lot. We've twinned our arenas, we've got our leisure centre opening. We've got new sports parks we've just opened. We have a very aggressive program in place for Recreation and Parks.

Rumours of town staff discontent: I don't think we have an unusual amount of discontentment.

Public transportation: Clearly we don't have the finances to embark on a transit system. It might be something we can do a scaled type of service for our seniors... but it's not going to be a large-scale system of any kind.

Where she stands on...

Smoking bylaw: I really believe there should be a provincial policy...It is unfair the way it is for businesses if municipalities aren't cohesive in how they do things...As much as I'm against smoking...I do believe there's a fairness. Businesses should be put on a level playing field.

Pesticide use: I understand the problem... I can see from a health point of view it's really hard, but from a field point of view, if your fields aren't up to scratch you're causing another problem. There has to be a compromise...I prefer not to use pesticides...

Rural garbage pickup: I think they need to go back to the rural people in Halton Hills...The people need to have a better forum to express their views...I don't believe the survey was conducted in a way that included the Halton Hills population...why not do it over again.

Town tax increases: I don't want 10 per cent.

Sign bylaw: I think what's happening now is a better start, meeting again with the businesses, finding out how you can make a sign bylaw that makes the town look better but works with business.

Lake-based water for residential growth: No. I disagree with that because I believe we'll be just the way Milton is going to be...an explosion of houses and people.

Council downsizing/full-time councillors: I think in some respects it is good to have the diversity of numbers, and there's no need for full time, but yef if people want to downsize and that's the thing to do, it could be done...

Road improvements: It's needed big time...The roads in this community are in awful shape, and it's not for lack of trying it's a lack of money. I think it's really important to maintain that infrastructure.

Recreational opportunities: They're improving but they still need to be enhanced. I'm really pleased the Trafalgar Rd. park is there, and I'm glad I was part of that...not everything has to cost a lot.

Rumours of town staff discontent: I'm not aware of that right now. I would have been aware of that in the past, when I was mayor I always walked around the town departments. I made a point of going to all the different departments and talking to people.

Public transportation: I just don't agree with it here. I don't think we can afford it.

Marilyn Serjeantson: Third term the charm?

Age: 61
Occupation: Communications/event planner; registered nurse
Previous elected experience: 23 years (six as mayor)

1. What makes you the best candidate for mayor?

"I would say my experience for one and my knowledge too...I think I have a really good background of knowledge, as well as my keenness to do a good job, my involvement in the community...I think I have a knack of being able to utilize the skills of others in a positive fashion and I'm not afraid to do that because I believe you take the best idea or best strengths and if you utilize it together you all win..."

2. What are the three main issues the town is facing in the next three years and how do you intend to deal with those issues?

"I guess taxes are a big issue. Taxes in both areas (the region and town) are really an issue...To keep the taxes level it's a 7 per cent increase, and what's not really emphasized is there's additional flows of money into the tax base to start with...there's the increase in population, and then there's the extra \$400,000 they got from the Hydro, plus their getting taxes for their land...This is a large increase considering there's other sources of funds...The (proposed) 10 per cent increase is definitely unacceptable..."

Traffic in general (is the second issue)...Getting out of town in the morning, at 7 a.m., 7:30 a.m., it's awful... We just have to work with the region to get some of our roads done... there should be a formula that dictates that there is a need to be able to have the right infrastructure

if you're going to be forced to move forward with additional homes...The GO Transit system...I know you have to double the tracks between Georgetown and Toronto...and I really believe... that should be done...I don't want a bus system in town, there's no way anybody can afford it...

Services...I know in the rural area garbage is an issue, and they all feel they didn't get the proper survey...I personally feel garbage is adjudicated in the wrong way. Why should the cost of garbage be on your tax assessment on your house? There's got to be a better way...People are really concerned about the lack of police presence when there appears to be driving infractions...I would have to really go over the services again and be in tune with the actual quality of the service... (other issues are leadership and communication)."

3. The Hwy. 401 Corridor is apparently the town's best opportunity to attract much needed development dollars yet few businesses have expressed desire to locate there at this point. How, specifically would you encourage businesses to set up shop there?

"I know that the development charges are a bit of an issue. Maybe we need to look at what the development charges are in Mississauga and in Milton, so we know how competitive we are ... but on the other hand if you have got the right location sometimes it doesn't matter...I really feel ownership on the 401 Corridor because I fought for the original vision...I have a personal vested interest in making it work...It has everything 'going' for it...We just need to have



an aggressive marketing strategy, maybe we need to work closely with the province and better with the region... and just find out who's out there looking for things...and do a personal sell...and advertise...maybe we have to do something that's more creative in a way of saying Halton Hills is the place to locate...it's our own people that want to expand in town, maybe we have to know more about the businesses here too..."

4. CAO Steve Andrews abruptly resigned in July and yet the town is still paying his contract. Many residents have questioned why the town would continue to pay someone who resigned their position and believe they have not heard the whole story. Please comment.

"I find the whole thing really bizarre, I find it bizarre because they had that vote on July 7, six voted in favour, five voted against, and I understood the five that voted against knew nothing about it, and yet all three papers heard about it...sometime before it happened. I find that process really uncomfortable because regardless of what happens in a town I think you have to manage your business in a professional way, and you have to manage it with a credibility that the public sees happen. And if you're all on the same wavelength, and if it is a personnel issue, it is a private issue, so there is a litigation concern that you have to be involved with. So... you should be doing it with a cohesive group, not with a splintered group and it looks to me like this was a splintered effort...I do think there was a leadership issue..."