

Editorial

It's up to you

In less than two weeks local residents will be able to have their say about any issues that bother them. Whether it be bad roads, rural garbage pickup, high town taxes, lack of recreational facilities— whatever— you, the voter can let your opinions be known Monday, Nov. 10 on municipal election day.

We strongly encourage you to make an informed choice and believe that you forfeit your right to complain if you decide to abstain from the voting process.

This year in Halton Hills 27 candidates are competing in races for seven positions. To be sure, there is a broad spectrum of candidates— and that is not necessarily a good thing.

While we commend all for putting forward their names, we cannot stress enough the importance for voters to know the issues and where their candidates stand on them. This town is facing serious challenges in the coming years and by the simple fact that three longtime council members are seeking the mayor's seat, it means the next term of council will be less experienced than ones we've seen in recent years.

The direction and face of council will undoubtedly be altered greatly in this election and while there are many candidates who appear eager to take on the responsibility of being the voice for residents, there are some candidates, we believe, who will only be a detriment to this town should they be elected.

However, it is up to you— the voter— to separate the grandstanders, egomaniacs, radicals and uninformed from the candidates who have the town's best interests at heart and can offer reasoned opinions, rational arguments and solid leadership.

This town deserves no less, but its future is in your hands. We ask only that you choose wisely.



Letters to the editor...

Resident appalled at town's unsightliness

Dear editor,

This is directed at Mayor Kathy Gastle and MPP Ted Chudleigh. As a concerned resident of

Georgetown, I am appalled at the neglectful and unsightly conditions of these town owned and privately owned lots in our town.

This issue was brought to Mayor Gastle and Ted Chudleigh not long ago.

Mayor Gastle did respond, by saying the town could not go in on private property to cut it unless there were noxious weeds. What about three-foot high grass that breeds mosquitoes?

What would the town do if a private homeowner allowed their property to become unsightly? I am sure the town would go in, cut it, and put an extra amount on their property tax bill. Why does this not apply to lots held by speculators? They should be required to keep their lots tidy, and cut at least once a year.

Mr. Chudleigh did not respond. I am sure if these lots were next door to their beautiful homes they would have been dealt with immediately, not let go for years.

I was also embarrassed as a resi-

dent to see on the front page a few weeks ago a picture advertising "The town in bloom" with the mayor in front of a wilted, dead garden. There were beautiful gardens around town at that time. I don't think that was too impressive. Most of our residents are proud of our town and expect nothing more than everyone cooperatively to keep up that pride.

Hopefully, maybe a bylaw will be put in place to require speculators to look after their own property and keep this town a beautiful place to live.

T. Toetenel, Georgetown

More letters page 7

'Deal' doesn't help voters

Dear editor,

We all agree that electing our politicians is vital to a free society and a great privilege.

It would be even better if we in Halton Hills were allowed to cast informed and intelligent ballots. Unfortunately, one very important issue is withheld from us and prevents us from doing so—the circumstances of the dismissal or resignation of the Chief Administrative Officer.

The fact that a secret deal prevents disclosure is not helpful. Neither is the fact that this procedure is condoned by an obscure clause in the Municipal Act.

I am reminded of a line in the TV show *Mister Minister*: "The Official Secrets Act is not there to protect secrets; It's there to protect officials."

On with the beauty contest.

William F. Holding, Georgetown

Reader takes exception to candidate's ads

Dear editor,

Jane Haggett hit the nail right on the head with her letter to the editor in the October 24, edition of *The Independent & Free Press*.

(Mayoral candidate) John Day must not give the people of Halton Hills a lot of credit for intelligence with some of the ads he has

run. I cannot help thinking that if this is the way his campaign is run, what would he be like as mayor?

To reiterate Jane Haggett's excellent ending, "Looks to me, Mr. Day, you are again showing poor judgment like you did a year ago."

Erik Kowal, Hornby

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