

OPINION

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Our choices

As we stated Wednesday in this space, each election we offer our opinion as to which candidates we believe offer the best choice for voters. We do not do this to influence the electorate, but simply to offer an opinion, as we do every edition in this space, on the issues of the day.

Wednesday we endorsed incumbent mayor Rick Bonnette and Brent Marshall for the position of regional chair. The following is our view on the other races:

Ward 2

Two-term incumbent councillors Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson are being challenged by student Jason Hilts. Lewis and Robson have been good representatives for their mainly rural constituents and should be returned.

Ward 3

Incumbents Moya Johnson (four terms) and Mike Davis (one term) are being challenged by David Adair and David Kentner. While Johnson has been a steady voice for her constituents and deserves her seat at the council table the same cannot be said for Davis. His first term has been marked by a variety of foolish declarations, grandstanding and selfishness. Among his lowlights: he referred to 401 Corridor developers as "corporate welfare bums"; attempted to claim mileage expense for his use of a bicycle; wanted the Town to recoup money for the donation of unused space for a job centre to help recently laid-off Curwood Packaging employees and fought relentlessly for a bike path on the reconstructed Maple Avenue, even though the majority of residents did not support the path. Instead of bringing a new voice with solid ideas to council, he has chosen to often battle colleagues over innocuous issues and brings matters, on which he previously lost, back to the table. Adair has served on the Town's committee of adjustment while Kentner has spent months attending council meetings and learning the workings of council. Either challenger would be a better option than Davis, with Kentner's passion for the job giving him a slight edge.

Ward 4

Incumbent Bob Inglis— a good advocate for his ward and a common-sense politician— should be back for a fourth term leaving Kevin Duggan, John Duncan or Drew Riedstra to grab the other seat. All three, we believe, would be able to "learn on the job" and with the lack of all candidates' meetings to see the trio in action we believe this race is wide open.

Halton District School Board Trustee Wards 1 & 2

Halton Hills gets two trustees at the board table this term and will see two new representatives with the lamentable loss of longtime trustee Ethel Gardiner. In Ward 1 Gerry Ockenden's desire to ensure "the kids come first" make him a clear choice over "activist" Sean Haefner.

Halton District School Board Trustee Wards 3 & 4

Two excellent candidates— Gillian Kutarna and Mike Parkhill— vie for this seat. Parkhill has received a ringing endorsement from Gardiner and her opinion is to be valued. However, Kutarna, a lawyer, who has advocated in the past on behalf of special needs students and their parents, insists she is not a one-issue candidate and has a solid background serving on a variety of hospital and health-care service boards. This race is a toss-up.

Halton Catholic District School Board Trustee

Irene McCauley who has served 26 years as trustee is being challenged by Rosanna Palmieri. While McCauley is rebounding from serious health issues, change simply for the sake of change is not something we can support.

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of several newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd.

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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trustee's role is to groom a successor...

Dear editor,

This is in response to Richard Van Dyk's Oct. 25 letter to the editor, "Trustee wrong to offer recommendation".

As current school board trustee for Halton Hills, one of the roles of Ethel Gardiner's leadership is to choose and groom a successor, which is very common practice in the political world. While several people approached

Ethel about wanting to become the next trustee, she told me that she approached Mike Parkhill because she was impressed by how involved he is in the community and how he would represent the learning needs of ALL of the children.

In her words, "Mike is in this for all the right reasons". While some people may not approve of her endorsing one candidate over another, I look to Ethel

for guidance in this matter, as I have nothing but the utmost respect for her and trust her judgment.

This does not mean that I let other people do my thinking for me— rather, I know what an incredible job Ethel has done over her terms as trustee, and my confidence in Ethel's care for our children would only lead me to believe that she would put equal passion into making sure that she left the Georgetown schools in great hands.

Marnie Carey,
Georgetown

...but reader offers dissenting view

Dear editor,

I was appalled that Ethel Gardiner would use her current position as Halton District School Board Trustee to promote her so called "successor".

I have taken the time to compare the two candidates through their respective websites, brochures and "infomercials" aired on our community channel. In assessing each candidate's suitability for this important role of public school trustee I reviewed their career backgrounds and skills as well as demonstrated

service to our community.

It was not hard for me to decide which candidate I will vote for as our new trustee. Given the serious challenges facing the public education system in Georgetown we cannot afford to blindly accept an "heir apparent".

Please take the time to review each candidate's background and make an educated decision when casting your ballot.

Stephanie Driedger,
Georgetown

Elementary schools thanked for holding food drive

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Georgetown Bread Basket I wish to thank the elementary Catholic schools for their tremendous Thanksgiving Food Drive.

From the schools we took away five truck loads, five van loads and three car loads of food. In each case the youth were allowed to come and help us load up, all having good fun because they

knew they were helping others.

There was an element of love for others being transmitted by these young people and on behalf of the food bank clients we want to say how thankful we are. Georgetown people are the best.

Marian Viant,
director media co-ordinator
Georgetown Bread Basket

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!

Letters to the editor must include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

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