

Which councillors will contest their seats again?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

In just less than a year – on November 13, 2006 – Halton Hills voters will go to the polls to elect a

new Town Council.

The existing municipal councillors are two years into their current terms, and one year away from the vote that will determine their political futures.

Although nominations may not be filed with the clerk until January 2, 2006, The New Tanner asked the existing councillors what their plans are.

Mayor Rick Bonnette

"This is too premature, we haven't even had Christmas season over yet. I will make some announcement probably in the spring. When I was a Regional Councillor I never made any announcement until late June or August.

Mayor is a little different. I have done that my whole career I'm not about to change."

Clark Somerville, Town and Regional Wards 1/2 Councillor

"It is too early to tell. We have a lot of work yet to do in this term before thinking of running for another. There is over a year to go, and it is premature to answer the question."

Mike O'Leary, Acton Councillor

"It's a year out from the election – I probably won't make my mind up until next spring, one way or the other. I have enjoyed the time I've spent on Council, and some of the projects I've been involved with have been exciting, and I'm leaning that way."



Jon Hurst, Acton Councillor

"I haven't made any decision yet. I'm leaning toward running, but a lot of things can change in a year, so my intent is to run for the same position I have now, unless something drastic happens."

Moya Johnson, Georgetown Councillor

"At this point in time, I

have not made a decision about running for re-election. If I do decide to seek re-election, it will be for the same office of Local Councillor, Ward 3."

Mike Davis, Georgetown Councillor

"I have been very busy and have not given much thought to it. I will announce my intentions by the nomination deadline."

Joan Robson, Georgetown Councillor
"Right now, I'm enjoying the work, but I haven't made any firm decision about seeking re-election."

Bob Inglis, Georgetown Councillor
"It is too soon to say (what my plans are.) I'll make an announcement in the spring."

Ron Chatten, Georgetown Councillor
Did not respond

Bryan Lewis, Georgetown Councillor
"It is premature to answer that question."

Jane Fogal, Town and Regional Ward 3/4 Councillor

"...I am not thinking about that sort of decision at this time. A year is a very long time and much can happen in the intervening time."

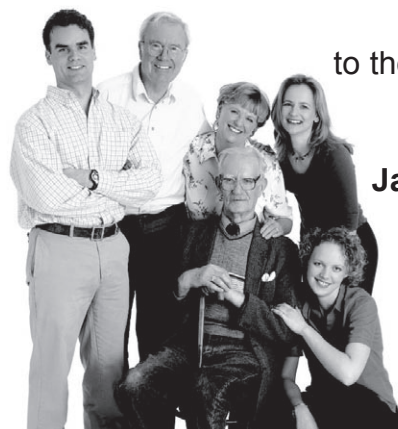
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User fee break for Seniors?

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Seniors and others of limited means could get a break when it comes to paying for Town programs and activities.

While approving a new 2006 user fees, licencing fees and service charges bylaw, with increases based on a three per cent cost-of-living guideline, Town Council also asked for a staff report on a seniors' discount.

At Council on Monday, representatives of two sports groups – Georgetown Slopitch and the Halton Hills Hawks, both which have Acton members – asked Council to defer approval of any increases until the issues like

service levels and standards can be discussed.

Georgetown senior David Meal, who regularly uses the Gellert Recreation Centre, asked Council to "remove" fees from seniors who may be of limited income in their declining years.

The Town's pricing policy does not provide specific price discounts to any age group, except for general reduced rates for youth-related programs.

That prompted Georgetown Councillor Mike Davis to suggest the issue be deferred until staff comes back with a report on the impacts of waving or reducing program and activity fees for seniors.

Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson supported

the move, taking it further and floating a motion calling for a "moratorium on any increase for seniors" until the report is ready.

Regional Ward 1/2 Councillor Clark Somerville questioned how they could have a moratorium on an increase, when in most cases, there is no increase, and suggested if they look at a senior's discount, they should also look at breaks for young families and disadvantaged youth.

Georgetown Councillor Ron Chatten said if they give discounts, they should be to people who need them and not to those who can afford to use Town facilities.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary noted they'd been discussing the use of pools by seniors, but should also consider the use of all facilities, including rinks and ball diamonds.

Council voted to ask staff for a report for the community affairs committee on strategies for implementing a discount rate for seniors, and others who may need them, to use Town facilities and programs.



The Regional Municipality of Halton

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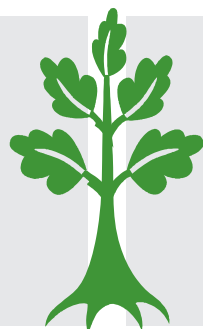
Come and learn about Halton Region's new Tree By-law

Join Halton Regional staff and a Registered Professional Forester at one of our two informative drop-in sessions to learn about Halton Region's new Tree By-law.

Open House Session 1

Tuesday, January 31, 2006
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville
North Auditorium
(use north entrance)



Open House Session 2

Thursday, February 2, 2006
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Milton Sports Centre, Room 2
605 Santa Maria Blvd., Milton
(off Derry Road, just west of Ontario St.)

Learn about the benefits of practicing good forestry and receive information on how you can maximize the value of your woodlot!

The Tree By-law, finalized after nearly two years of development and extensive consultation with the community, applies to trees located in Greenlands or Woodlands larger than 0.5 hectares and is primarily designed to prevent unauthorized clear cutting in Halton Region.

Residents can pick up a copy of by-law 121-05 on Halton's website or at the Halton Citizen's Reference Library at the Regional Administration Building at 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville or contact Halton Region for more information.

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