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Howard says she's tired of a mostly tired council

By **BRAD REAUME**
The Champion

Thoroughly frustrated, Ward 3 Councillor Marion Howard said she has had enough of municipal politics and will not run for a third term.

Feeling as if she was banging her head against the walls of politics and bureaucracy, Ms Howard briefly toyed with the idea of running for mayor.

"I hate not carrying things through," she said. "But there are lots of other people who can achieve things."

In the end she decided that she was unsuited to playing the game and bowed out of municipal politics.

Given a five-way race for two local council seats in Nassagaweya, Ms Howard said she is content that there will be quality representation for her constituents.

"I'm tired and frustrated," she said. "It wasn't really my bag. I tried as hard as I possibly could but I have a philosophical conflict with most of council."

Ms Howard said she feels councillors are elected to be community leaders rather than pollsters.

Ms Howard said substantial consultation adds little to the process and slows it down. She believes that councillors are elected to take a leadership role.

"I'm not the political type, I guess. I don't think that taking three or four years to make something happen is an achievement. Especially when it is obvious there is a problem from day one."

She attributed excessive consultation to Councillor Gerry Brooks, in particular.

"I've never seen him make a decision," she said. Yet, "He brings everyone in and makes them believe they have a voice."

She contends Councillor Brooks "shows no leadership."

Ms Howard aimed another of her broadsides at Mayor Gord Krantz, saying he is constantly taking credit for any ideas that come up.

She said a recent job description for elected officials, developed by staff, merely stated that the mayor's job conformed to what he was doing.

"It said the mayor should meet and greet but said nothing about leadership or carrying the agenda," she recalled. "I think the mayor should lead and should set



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MARION HOWARD

an agenda, but he never does."
 Ms Howard said many councillors think that attempts to change the status quo are condemnations of previous policies.

However, that is not the case, she stressed, explaining that things just require fine tuning over the years because dynamics change.

She said she was happy that she was able to help put an end to rural estate subdivision approvals. The issue was the main reason she decided to run for council two terms ago.

"Maintaining the rural character is important," she said. "It's important to have that diversity of landscapes in Halton. We have a pocket of nature that everyone can enjoy."

Ms Howard condemned council for not taking charge of the agenda and planning for the future.

• see COUNCILLOR on page 18

Marion Howard on:

- **Gerry Brooks:** "I've never seen him make a decision."
- **Gord Krantz:** "I think the mayor should lead and should set an agenda, but he never does."
- **Brian Penman:** "... He gets acclaimed. People get the government they deserve."



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Hitting the wall

Bishop Reding's Carrie-Ann Nichols, (left) shows the strain as she battles to keep up with Loyola's Jen Foley in the junior girls Halton high school cross-country championships Wednesday at Milton's Kelso Conservation Area. Carrie-Ann finished seventh, Jen fifth. See page 25 for more photos and a story.

NEWSLINES

Help needed so elderly may read

Three blind or visually impaired Allendale residents require volunteer shoppers, readers and visitors. Potential volunteers are asked to commit two hours a week to one of these three women. The next training session will be held October 21 to 23 at 151 Centre Drive, Suite 201 in Mississauga at 12:30 p.m. To register, or for more information, call 1-888-275-5332.

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