

# Liberal Party's candidate for Halton withdraws bid after drunk driving charge

By LISA TALLYN  
Special to The Champion

John Day has withdrawn as the Liberal Party's Halton candidate for the next provincial election, just eight months after winning the nod.

The announcement comes on the heels of a court appearance by Mr. Day in Oshawa Wednesday on impaired driving charges.

At a riding association meeting Wednesday, Mr. Day withdrew his candidacy "for personal and family reasons."

Mr. Day, 55, a Halton Hills regional councillor for eight years and a member of the Halton Regional Police Services Board since 1998, was charged by Whitby OPP with impaired driving and having over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood after being stopped on Hwy. 401 in Clarington September 11.

His licence has been suspended until December 10, and he is to be back in Oshawa court November 6.

Since September 11, Mr. Day, a resident of Georgetown, hasn't attended any Halton Hills or Halton regional council meetings.

When asked Thursday whether



John Day

or not the charges were impacting his ability to do his job as councillor, as a member of the police services board, or whether he was considering resigning from those positions. Mr. Day said, "My family and I are going through some difficult times right now. We would ask that you respect the privacy of my family and myself. I haven't resigned from anything."

He added that he would be attending the Halton Hills council meeting tonight.

"It was a big shock to everyone," Halton Liberal Riding Association president Carol Lawson said of Mr. Day's withdrawal.

She said Mr. Day called her prior to the meeting and told her of his intention to withdraw, but didn't mention the impaired driving charge. Ontario Liberal Party president Greg Sorbara said he was informed a week to 10 days ago that Mr. Day may be withdrawing.

The riding will now have to find a new candidate and submit a nomination plan, he said.

"I know they have been actively involved in discussions," he said. "We'll get this thing done fairly quickly I think."

Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar said he learned of the charges against Mr. Day last week.

"The (Halton Regional Police Services) board is aware of the issue and has convened a special meeting to deal with the issue," said the chief.

At press time, the in-camera meeting was to be held Friday at Halton Regional Police headquarters. Chief Algar said there's nothing specific in the Police Services Act that governs police service board members, but there's a code of conduct members are to follow.

Chief Algar said it will be up to the board to interpret that in relation to Mr. Day's situation, likely at today's meeting.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said she was informed of the charges in a phone call from Mr. Day last Tuesday.

"There is nothing in the act (municipal or region) that would require him to step down," said Ms Savoline. "It's an unfortunate situation. He's going through a difficult personal time and I would respect his privacy," she said.

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