

Lee top spender among municipal election candidates

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee was the top-spending candidate in November's race for municipal council, according to financial statements recently filed with the Town.

The documents, which are required from election participants under the Municipal Elections Act, showed Lee's campaign expenses totalled \$19,200.82, of which \$19,145 was contributed by local individuals, businesses and developers.

Lee told the Champion that this level of spending was quite abnormal for him. "I traditionally didn't accept funds," he said, noting that he's been acclaimed a few times. "In the past when I was approached and offered funds, I directed the contributions to a community party."

But this time around, Lee had two contenders and had to campaign throughout the largest geographical ward in Halton, which he said required "extensive materials."

Local resident Tony Lambert, who ran against Lee, spent \$2,970 and received \$800 in donations from individuals, while fellow Wards 1 and 3 candidate Frank Massara didn't file a financial statement with the Town.

"It just means he can't run in the next regular election," said Town Election Administrator Selena Campbell.

The deadline to file was April 2, and those who hadn't submitted their statements by then were sent notices of default and given until April 16 to do so without penalty, explained Campbell. If a current member of council didn't file by then, they would be removed from office. But that wasn't the case for anyone on town council.

While Lee's financial statement is dated April 10, he told the Champion the Town clerk actually had his pre-signed documentation on time. But since the statement has to be signed in front of the clerk and Lee was away in England, it didn't become official until he returned.

In the race for the mayor's seat, incumbent Mayor Gord Krantz received \$9,250 in contributions from individuals, businesses and developers and spent \$8,801.12.

"I always keep it under \$10,000," he remarked. "That's a goal I set a long time ago. I think that's enough."

Meanwhile, those who ran against Krantz — Al Volpe and Gerry Marsh — spent \$10,000 and \$3,265.77 respectively. Volpe's statement indicates he received a \$200 donation while Marsh financed his campaign with his own money.

Other candidates' figures were as follows:

- Ward 1 — incumbent Brian Penman, \$4,200 in donations from businesses and developers and \$4,127.87 in expenses; incumbent Rick Day, \$5,000 contributed by himself and \$4,101.17 in expenses; Mike Cluett, \$3,068 in contributions that were largely made by him and \$2,963.95 in expenses; Greg Nelson, \$1,550 in donations from local residents and \$2,342.12 in expenses; Kevin Brackley (dropped out of race), \$427 in contributions and \$127 in expenses; Eugene Cummins, no listed contributions or expenses.

- Ward 2 — incumbent Mike Boughton, \$4,687.50 in contributions, with most coming from himself and a barbecue fundraiser, and \$4,257.40 in expenses; Mark Curtis, \$6,445 in contributions from local residents and businesses and a large chunk from himself and \$8,919.98 in expenses; Peter Haight, \$1,458 in donations from individuals and \$3,953.89 in expenses; Jim Timbers didn't file a statement.

- Ward 3 — incumbent Cindy Lunau, \$4,189.90 in expenses and contributions from local residents, businesses, a developer and herself; incumbent Jan Mowbray; \$1,226.37 in expenses paid for by her; Rick Matchett; \$3,132.52 of his own money to cover expenses; Lieven Gevaert (dropped out of race), no contributions and \$150 spent.

- Ward 4 — incumbent Wendy Schau, \$3,142.39 in expenses and contributions mostly made by her; incumbent Paul Scherer, \$4,862.97 of his own money in expenses; John Challinor, \$6,172.09 in expenses and contributions largely

made by him; John Daly, \$1,272.63 in expenses and contributions from himself and family.

- Wards 2 and 4 — incumbent Colin Best, \$4,513.84 in expenses and contributions made by him, individuals and a business; Ron Furik, \$3,464 in expenses and contributions from local businesses and himself; Rick Malboeuf, \$7,500 in contributions made by him and businesses and \$7,387 in expenses; Nicki Ward didn't file a statement.

- Halton District School Board trustee — incumbent Donna Danielli \$5,183.04 in contributions from individuals, a business and herself and \$5,872.04 in expenses; Paul Tate didn't file a statement.

- Halton Catholic District School Board trustee, incumbent David Wilhelm, was acclaimed, \$0 in expenses and contributions.

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