

Barkley joins Ward 1 race

The latest Ward 1 candidate brings more than a decade of experience to the table, having previously worked with town council, staff and Milton residents.

Sharon Barkley is a former Milton Hydro (MH) commissioner and she was MH chair from 2000-09, before returning to her full-time job managing her own print and design business.

The longtime rural Milton resident says she enjoyed the 14 years she spent working with MH and added that running for a position on council is something she has wanted to do for almost 10 years.

"It's a direction I was considering when (the Town) tapped me on the shoulder and asked me to become a board member of the newly formed Milton Hydro Holdings," said Barkley. "I think one (job) flows into the other."

Barkley said her leadership experience during a time of "tremendous change and growth," will benefit Ward 1 residents and the town.

She said some of her top priorities as a councillor would be the hospital expansion and addressing the needs of both urban and rural residents.

"Needs which include issues around traffic volume, traffic flow, property tax increases, pressures on rural land owners..." she said. "From a personal perspective I live on

Derry. I certainly know what traffic is. For those of us who have chosen to live in rural Milton, we value that beyond measure."

She added that she's concerned about rising property taxes and said the completion of the Derry Green business park will help attract more businesses to town and keep taxes down for residents.

Barkley said during her time with MH, the organization promoted a "culture of conservation" — something she says will be an important issue for the new council.

"If you give people an opportunity to conserve, they will."

Barkley was one of the founders of Skills for Change, a Toronto-based non-profit that provides learning and training opportunities for immigrants and refugees so they can participate in the workplace. She was also the chair of Canadian Metal Health Halton from 1988-1998.

"I chose this town and the rural property we live on more than 25 years ago, and I hope over the next four years I can continue assisting our community, and Ward 1 in particular, to be the wonderful place to live that Milton should be."

Martin Capper and Andrew Salmons are also running in Ward 1.

The final day to register as a candidate is this Friday.



Sharon Barkley

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