

2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

Mayor



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1. What new measures would you bring forth to insure that Halton Hills is an open for business minded community?

I would look into instituting a review of licensing requirements, identify duplication, complexity and cost of these requirements and work to reduce red tape, eliminate unnecessary obstacles and overall cost to the applicant. Working more closely in a collaborative way rather than a confrontational and narrow minded attitude towards existing businesses and possible new development and business to work towards

2. How can we attract employers that offer full-time, non-retail jobs to our community?

The planning and implementation of infrastructure improvement, not only roads, but technological infrastructure, transit within the community, regional transit connections and educational institutions within Halton Hills to provide the base that a possible employer may be looking for. Coupled with less red tape and a proactive approach by the town to seek out new, high value and up and coming industries and businesses and providing the workforce they seek would help to attract them here.

3. Please name the most important step the next Town Council can take to support economic growth in Halton Hills.

The council needs to leave behind the present attitude of opposing most types of development and new ideas being proposed to the town for future economic and social growth, and what they do allow, they certainly make it a hard and arduous journey not worth taking. A revamp of what our town should look like as we move into a mandated growth initiative should be a priority.

4. What would you do to control the municipal budget and if you plan any cuts where would they be?

I understand the valuable resource that information is, but the town is spending inordinate amounts of money on what some would call “pet” projects, too much on consultants that regurgitate common information that can be summarized and presented as well by existing staff, a hard look at our legal expenses, and eliminated the idea that we should study something not once but many times and then do nothing. Efficiencies on service delivery can also be looked at and fine tuned.

5. What are your views on “Places to grow” give us your opinion on what issues good and bad may arise with this type of growth and how would you approach these issues?

I am generally in favour of the long term outlook of the “Places to grow” initiative. It allows the communities to basically formulate their own plans and how they are implemented within a framework to work to a common goal. I believe it is a forward looking initiative but lacks some guidance on how the province is going to assist in the overall funding of it’s requirements as they pertain to the responsibilities within the communities and the consistency of a reliable, long term funding plan.

6. Some of our members are struggling to get both entry level and skilled workers. How would you attract and retain a strong and vibrant workforce in Halton Hills?

If we foster a stable, well served and affordable business environment, it would allow an existing employer more leeway to consider expansion or even offer a more attractive incentive to workers. Developing a more concentrated population base would keep the costs of servicing the population down and keep transit affordable within the community allowing both the pool of skilled and entry level workers to grow and the availability to get to work affordably a reality. A proactive approach by the town to attract a postsecondary institution or satellite would help in producing a skilled work force and the development of appropriate housing as guided by the town.
