

2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

Regional Councillor – Wards 3 and 4



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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 will support funding the Community Improvement Plan to assist existing businesses improve their buildings. In 2017 the Town invested \$181,000 in 14 small businesses.

I will advocate at the Region for up-front servicing of our employment lands along the 401 corridor. The addition of the 500,000 sq. ft. Kraft Heinz building illustrates the merits of this strategy.

I will also be supporting the introduction of transit options that leverage new technology to make transit more attractive and sustainable.

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

See answer above. In addition surveys have shown that one of the most important factors in choosing a location is quality of life. It is important to continue to invest in our community so that our high quality of life is not compromised. This means investing in our facilities including trails, recreation facilities and natural lands. We must continue to advocate for improved rail service. We also need more affordable housing so that entry level employees can afford to live in our town.

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

The Town is doing many things that need to continue in order for us to be successful. The next thing to address is the need for affordable transportation options. This need applies to assisting employees, customers and people seeking services.

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

We need to be judicious with all expenditures. It is important that the proper tone be set with staff starting with the CAO. The needs of the municipality far outstrip our ability to pay so priorities have to be set by council. Personally I take a balanced approach which recognizes that every department is important with needs that must be met. But none of them can have everything they ask for.

We should also be constantly scanning for funding opportunities from the provincial and federal governments.

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?

The Places to Grow plan stipulates a population growth target to be accommodated but also gives us additional employment land. Both of these growth elements provide opportunity for economic activity. The downside is that we need to address traffic impacts and intensification both in new areas and in existing neighbourhoods as well as the loss of farmland. Improvements to transportation are essential to our success. The up side is that it is forcing us to build compact, walkable communities.

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?

We lack sufficient new affordable housing that would accommodate those working at entry level or mid-level jobs. This is one issue that is actually helped by intensification whereby smaller less expensive units will be built in our town. We should be trying to attract a builder who will build rental units to increase the options available to workers. Introduction of transit options will also help to reduce the need for a second car, thus improving affordability.
