

2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

Local Councillor – Ward 3



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

Halton Hills is very much 'Open for Business' as in the last few months Mayor Bonnette announced that Kraft Foods has moved into our Gateway Employment Lands on Steeles Avenue bringing over 125 manufacturing jobs to our community. That wonderful announcement was followed by Mayor Bonnette announcing that Freshhouse Foods is moving to Todd Rd and bringing approx. 125 manufacturing jobs!! I will continue to support our Economic Development Office and continue to support the funding of the tools they need.

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

Logistics facilities are today's reality as the World is trending to 'off shore manufacturing'. Several years ago our Economic Development Office focused on the Food Industry and now we are attracting more food industries. Halton Hills boasts a modern up to date Comprehensive Zoning By Law, a funded Community Improvement Plan, and adequate water allowance servicing our Industrial Areas. Active support of our Sister City Program with Wenjiang China is developing a warm relationship with Chinese Industrialists looking for a presence in Ontario.

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

Critical to all industrial/retail businesses is stability of the Municipal Tax Rate. This allows stable long term financial planning. Halton Hills Council just approved a Ten year Financial Plan committing to holding tax increases to 3.9 %. This plan commits funding to rebuild all municipal reserve funds and will ensure a well run community and a healthy financial picture. Construction of Halton Hills Hydro's new Transfer Station ensures adequate electricity for our Vision Lands Development and the build out of our Employment Lands.

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

Our Capital and Operating Budgets are well thought out, tightly monitored documents. Our Capital Budget ensures construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and new buildings (Gellert 2). Our Operating Budget responds to the needs identified in Resident Satisfaction Surveys and Departmental Master Plans . These annual budgets are developed with careful Council scrutiny and are tightly monitored thru quarterly updates. I support our Long Range Financial Plan and see no reductions in our taxes which are competitive (lower than most) with our neighbouring communities).

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?

‘Places to Grow”, a Provincial response to our Federal Immigration Policies requires us to conform. Our new Vision Lands Secondary Plan covering 1000 acres result in a modern, well planned home for 18,000. The ‘Destination Downtown Secondary Plan’ will shape the future of Downtown Georgetown as it intensifies accommodating growth. McGibbon Hotel, The Condominiums at 42 Mill Street and Amica at Georgetown Seniors Residence at 224 Maple Avenue accommodate hundreds of residents. Water is available for these projects because of developing our Vision Lands.

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?

Our efforts in attracting/retaining a strong vibrant workforce, focuses on working with and supporting our Chamber of Commerce initiatives and programs developed by the Ontario Government. We can support School Boards as they work with ‘Businesses’ to develop new apprenticeship programs. Developing Condominiums and high density town houses will result in affordable housing for entry level employees. Council is working with public input, on a ‘Made in Halton Hills Transportation Study’ which will focus on providing access to our Employment Lands’.
