

2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

Local Councillor – Ward 1



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

As a council and town, we need to work with businesses both small and large to make it easier to understand regulations, permits, licenses and so on to ensure business is aware of what is needed and so that they can open in a timely manner. Through collaboration between the Chamber and the Town, we can help new business understand what is needed and speed up the process and get them open quicker and be part of the community faster.

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

The Town has taken steps to encourage businesses to open up in the 401 employment corridor. These are good paying jobs, however we need to also bring more manufacturing industries to town, not just warehouse jobs. We do this by reaching out to companies to show them that Halton Hills has what they as a business need: space, access to major transportation networks, employees and consumers.

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

As mentioned above, the most important step the Council can take to support economic growth is to continue to build out the employment corridor on the 401, while also looking for other opportunities to open up lands for industrial and manufacturing employment. Vision Georgetown will bring lots of new business and houses to the area, creating much needed skilled jobs and long term employment.

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

No one wants higher taxes, business or personal but they are a reality. I would continue to keep any tax increase to within inflation levels. We've seen municipalities that have not kept up with inflation and are just leaving a huge increase to residents down the road.

I don't intend to make any cuts, but as a banker with an eye to fiscal responsibility, I would go over the budget to find waste and efficiencies. Bringing a new set of eyes and ideas of how things can be done will find waste.

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 was something the province gave to municipalities, dictating how they need to grow. It helps to protect against urban sprawl and helps to keep farmland intact, which are both important. The Town has a plan in place with Vision Georgetown, which is a good way to 'build' a new neighbourhood. In Acton at this point, most growth is focused on intensification due to water and greenbelt issues.

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?

Keeping skilled and entry level workers can be a challenge. Certainly businesses need to provide workers a living wage. As a Town, we need to ensure that there is both affordable housing and amenities, so that people can live, work and play in Halton Hills.

Transportation is also an issue that we will need to address. That doesn't necessarily mean a transit system (i.e. buses) but in order to be an option for companies and employers, we need to offer options so that employees are able to get around effectively.
