

## 2018 Municipal Elections Online Special Report

### Local Councillor – Ward 2



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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 already markets itself as ‘Open for Business,’ but there is still ground to be made up in that area. Keeping Economic Development approachable for incoming businesses is key. We also need to work toward industrial/employment lands being available when a new business comes knocking on the door.

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

Advertising to attract new employers is obviously key, and making sure the advertisements are reaching the appropriate sector of the perspective employers. Chamber of Commerce driven incentives also need to be offered, perhaps waiving or reducing entry membership dues to get them onboard. Many business owners tell me they feel the cost of the dues are too high for the benefits.

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

We can’t have economic growth if there is no place to locate it. More industrial land is key.

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

It is impossible to predict what could or could not be cut from budget until Council becomes immersed in the budget process. Every proposed item on the budget is scrutinized with a one on one discussion around the Council table, so all members of Council have input. I have one given- I would not support any budget increase that is more than the Cost of Living.

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 is a unique file which I consider a well-run project. In addition to Council and staff, the general public is encouraged to provide input as well, to ensure residents have a say in the final plan. The project definitely has an eye to the future, making sure that services incorporated in the future (like public transit) can easily be inserted into the plan without any major changes or adjustments.

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?

I’m a firm believer that one has to look in the correct place to find what one is looking for. Employers should put more emphasis on searching/advertising in different, farther reaching employment databases. Halton Region has resources available to connect employees/employers together, and streamline the process. The Town will continue undergoing an upcoming Transportation Plan in the coming year, and as it is developed, I believe that will make the Town more attractive to perspective employers.

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