

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?

The Town of Halton Hills is open for business. As a Council, we have invested many resources into economic development in terms of staff and programs to both recruit and retain businesses. Our Economic Development Officer meets regularly and works with both the Chamber and other business owners to promote and support business on our behalf and under our direction. I have a proven track record of always supporting initiatives that promote business development throughout Halton Hills.

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

Our Economic Development Office is tasked with this as one of their main objectives. By putting the resources in place at the staff level, myself and all members of Council are working to attract quality businesses to the Town. One only has to look along the 401 employment area corridor to see that we are succeeding in our professional approach to attracting high-quality businesses and their accompanying jobs. Additional development in our employment areas is forthcoming.

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

I believe that the most important step that the Town can take is hiring top quality, professional economic development staff and give them the resources they need to accomplish the goals we set for them.

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

I believe that we have done a good job in keeping our Budget in check by providing excellent customer service while at the same time, keeping costs under control. I don't foresee any cuts to services. One aspect of our budget that many people don't understand is that almost 2% of each annual budget increase is

dedicated to moving our Fire Department gradually from a part-time to a full-time service. This is vital as the current composite system is not sustainable over the long-term.

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 Provincial directive that dictates how we will grow to 2041. Council has completed a comprehensive plan to determine how we will accommodate 20,000 more residents in both new and existing areas. I believe that this growth is positive as it brings new people to town, yet the growth will be moderate enough to allow services to keep pace with the growth. Council’s job is to monitor the infrastructure needs and ensure we can accommodate new people into programs and services.

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 already attract skilled workers to Halton Hills as evidenced by the numbers of people who live and work here as well as those who commute to jobs outside Town. Entry level workers need affordable housing and access to transportation, both of which we are working to provide through various initiatives currently underway. Access to University education close to home (Milton and Brampton) may keep more of our young people in Town as long as there are local jobs available for them after they graduate.
