

Caledon Citizen

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Covering all of Caledon

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Don't be shy about running for council!

The deadline is fast approaching to submit papers to run for a position on Caledon council and the two local school boards.

It takes many things to put yourself in the public spotlight and offer your skills to make decisions that often effect every one of your friends and neighbours. Being a councillor places many demands on your time and requires some very supportive family members.

In its purest form, there's nothing more satisfying than making a difference in your own back yard. Maybe it's ego, maybe it has something to do with people and resource management. Whatever the reason, those who decide to run for municipal office deserve a very big tip of the hat.

Win or lose, by offering your services to your fellow taxpayers, you're doing a great service. And this is fundamental in our democratic system - that anyone, from any walk of life, can run for office and serve. There's really nothing simpler.

Of course, the job description and accompanying selection process is rather unique.

The entire voting constituency becomes your collective "boss" and decides whether you get the job based on your resume, previous public service, achievements and how you handle yourself at public, all-candidates' meetings. There are doors to knock on, people to speak with and issues to tackle. While kissing babies is out, some firm handshakes, smiles and waves are all part of the job.

Once you've secured the position, you're pretty much safe for the next four years. Unlike the real world of employment, there's no probation period and you can't really be fired, unless of course you really screw up big-time. It becomes a regular gig that will likely bring you closer to your community than you ever thought possible.

Of course, politics, even at the municipal level, is not always rosy. There are many headaches, trials and tribulations associated with "being in charge" and sitting around the council table, responsible for millions of taxpayers' dollars. You have to be at your

best and deal with everyone very diplomatically. Fortunately, we're fairly considerate and polite here in Caledon. And, the Town of Caledon boasts a very keen and knowledgeable group of staffers to back you up.

The same qualities and conditions that make running for office so democratically beautiful, are also cause for concern.

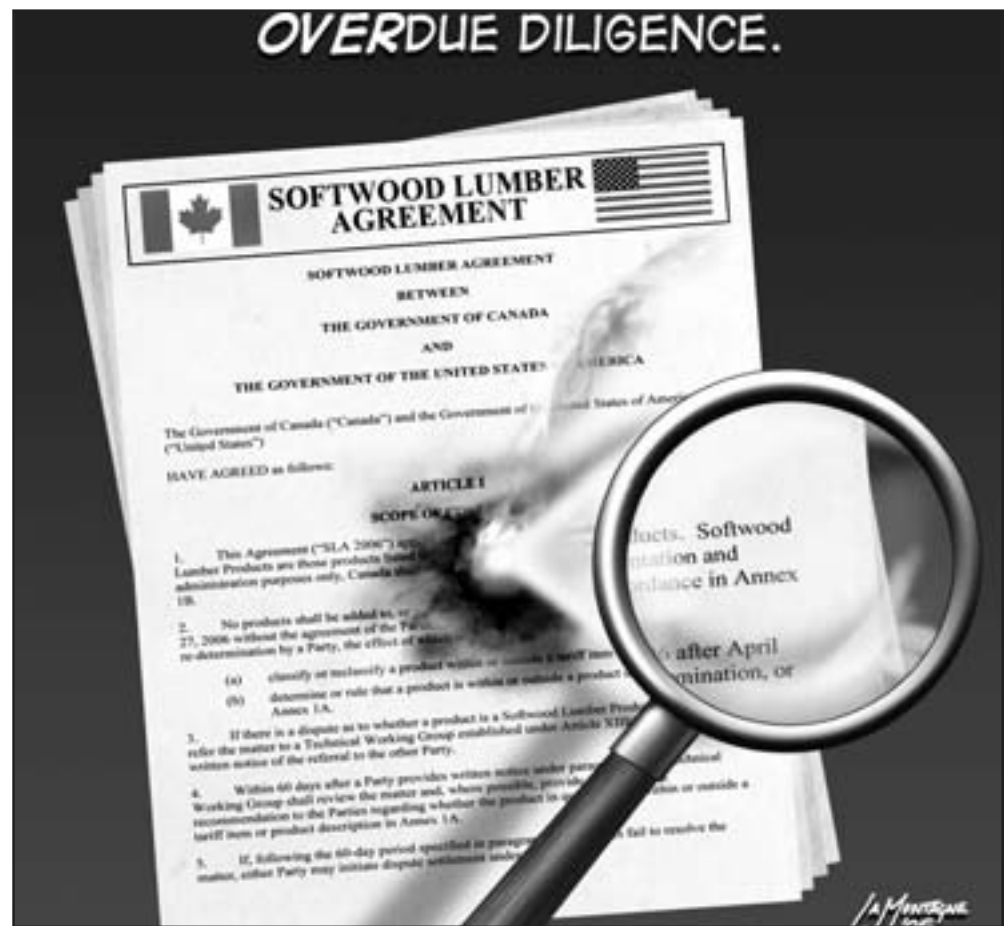
Too often than not, only a handful of citizens opt to jump in, with both feet, to serve. There are more entrants in the annual baby contests at the fairs than run for council! And, there may be one or two areas where candidates will run unopposed. The worst situation is when a would-be councillor wins an election by acclamation. It's like being given a free ride, not even knowing whether anyone likes or supports you.

The age-old saying - you get the type of political representation you deserve - is always true. If you, as a citizen and active member of your community, don't take the time to learn about the issues and candidates, and get out and vote, you really have no right to comment on council matters. People have fought and died for fundamental democratic rights for centuries. And we not only take it for granted, we often waste this very important privilege. Less than half the voting public actually comes out to make that little X on election day. Shame on those who don't!

This isn't rocket science. Local politicians, have, in Caledon's history, come from literally every nook and cranny, from various backgrounds and occupations. Academics don't really matter much - what matters is a genuine desire and skill to help make decisions. Every single person has a unique skill to offer, and valuable contributions to make. You'd be surprised how much can be accomplished with a little genuine interest and some elbow grease.

The rest is up to you. If you are inclined to run for office, all the best. If you want to vote for stability or change, go ahead. Its in our hands, literally.

MP, Editor



Our Readers Write

Reader is misinformed

Unfortunately, Tysoe's key claim ('Global warming propaganda,' Sept. 6) that "Several years ago the American Academy of Sciences (there is no American Academy of Sciences - it is the U.S. National Academy of Sciences) issued a statement endorsed by more than 100 eminent climatologists debunking the whole concept." My business

is to research legitimate information on environmental issues for students, academics, and businesses so that they remain well informed. The statement that Tysoe refers to was actually a position paper first circulated in 1998 by a group claiming to be the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in an attempt to discredit the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The group, the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine (linked to activist corporate lobbyists for big coal/oil and big pharm) that had authored the false report tried to recirculate it again in 2001, when President Bush went to the NAS for support for his anti-Kyoto policies. They actually circulated it along with a petition to every bachelor of sciences grad in the States in a deliberate attempt to convince the scientific community that it had originated with the NAS.

The NAS again quickly distanced itself from the false report, and, to the Bush administration's chagrin, issued an official statement in support of the IPCC's position.

Doubtless, there will be debates on climate change issues for decades to come, but at least our readers are entitled to an intelligent dialogue.

H.E. Skid Crease
President, ecoNexus Ltd.
Bolton

Saying thanks to worker

With fond memories and great thanks, Caledon Community Services wished farewell to one of the leading ladies of Caledon. Sometimes we forget how wonderful and giving people can be.

Mandy Fracassi is one of those individuals who makes Caledon a better place. With more than 10 years of service at Caledon Community Services Mandy has said farewell and taking her talents of nursing, caring and professionalism to William Osler Health Centre. We all know she will achieve great things there.

Well for many of us at Stationview and the many people you have touched we say farewell and thank you for making our lives better. Mandy did not only do her duties of a support worker but went beyond that.

For many years she supported the seniors of this community by organizing talent shows, card games, taking individuals shopping, visiting when she wasn't on duty and holding our hands when we needed a friend. She was a rebel for the benefit of her clients and the people she worked with. She has set a benchmark for caregiving that this community must never forget.

In this day and age many people come through our lives. As we get older we can only cherish these people. Caledon Community Services has made our lives easier. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts as we say goodbye to one of your staff, that had passion for her work and has given us a zest for life.

Friends and Staff
Stationview and CCS

DQ says thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers who supported our annual Miracle Treat Day at Bolton Dairy Queen Aug. 10. All proceeds of Blizzard treats sales were donated to the Children's Miracle Network helping children at our local hospitals.

Our Dairy Queen in Bolton donated more than \$2,100 from Blizzard sales, Miracle Treat balloons and canister collection.

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Caledon Citizen



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