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## Non-parity in the so-called Independent Media Coverage of the Candidates

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**Halton - Halton Hills:** When a supposedly non-bias newsprint media starts to endorse political candidates, particularly the ones who have been embedded in the existing government, it's probably time its readership took a closer scrutinizing look at that media. Under normal conditions, the newsprint media's job is to report and provide enough news to its readership, so the readership can then make an informed decision as to whom to vote for. But what if that media hasn't always reported the news, or when they have reported it, they've failed to do so in a non-bias manner? Should we still consider it as a reliable, credible source of information?

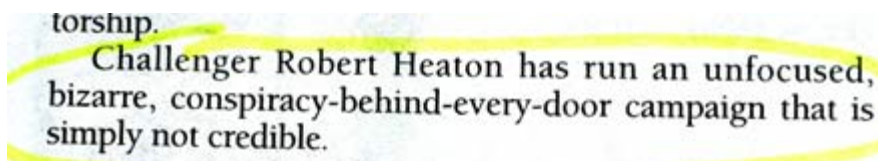
From reading the pages of the Georgetown Independent, it looks to some like the 'Morality of Media Ethics - 101' was a class at the school of journalism, that the paper's editor, John McGhie, may of skipped. It's long been an ethical rule of the media to not endorse political candidates, a faux pas The Georgetown Independent has not had a problem infringing upon during recent elections.

In recent issues, we've read full page 'stories', for lack of a better term, advertising Mayor Bonnette's self proclaimed accomplishments, and coincidentally, none of his failures with a small picture in the bottom corner of Mayor Candidate, Robert Heaton and a editor's note stating that Mr. Heaton did not respond to any offer to participate in the editor's staged event. At the "Meet the Candidates Meeting" that the Commerce hosted last Thursday, we also heard Mr. Heaton tell the attending audience that the community was not getting the news.



So we talked to mayoral candidate Robert Heaton to find out more and see, if perhaps, his assertions had anything to do with The Georgetown's Independent's report that Mr. Heaton showed no interest in partaking with editor McGhie's staged event. Here's what Mr. Rob Heaton said:

*"I've been in politics long enough in this Town to know who are my friends, my enemies, who is fair and who is not fair. It's evident in today's editorial of the Georgetown Independent what category editor McGhie fits in with. When you read the last paragraph of the unsigned editorial endorsements of candidates - deeply embedded Rick Bonnette and former chief bureaucrat Brent Marshall -- all the last paragraph states is: "Challenger Robert Heaton has run an unfocused, bizarre, conspiracy-behind-every-door campaign that is simply not credible".*



Mr. Heaton asserts, to prove his point:

*"How could they possibly form such an opinion on someone they have not yet interviewed"?*



In the same issue, Kelly Leonard writes to the Georgetown Independent; "Mayoral candidate should speak to voters", of which Mr. Heaton replies to the Halton Herald:

*"I, and many others, have been speaking to voters at various public meetings and through various mediums, which, the self proclaimed "leading source of local information in our community" has, on many occasions, failed to report."*

The Halton Herald WILL NOT endorse any political candidates but will gladly remind our readership of Mayor Candidate Rick Bonnette's and career bureaucrat Brent Marshall's failures.

In his last election campaign Bonnette pledged to keep taxes reasonable, yet, since being elected; Halton Hills property owners have suffered some of the largest tax increases ever levied in Halton Hills. And to make matters worst, some of those tax increases are compounded increases which means; 2% annually compounded by 2% and so-on, and so-on over many, many years. And do you think those compounded tax increases that Bonnette held his hand up in support of, will ever be rolled back?

Unfortunately for us property owners, Bonnette also represents Halton taxpayers at the region too, yet, he has not opposed the Region's plans to tear down our existing - fairly new, perfectly good multi-million dollar region facility only to build another facility, at a cost of; hundreds, upon hundreds of millions of dollars to taxpayers.

Councillor Inglis told Halton Hills taxpayers; "developments don't pay for themselves", which is a nice way of stating; existing taxpayers are also paying \$\$\$ for all the developments that have and continue to go on in Halton Hills. So why was Bonnette one of the main supporters for lowering development cost for developers in Halton Hills? Check this out, did you know these developers contributed significant amounts of cash to help get Bonnette elected in his last election campaign?

Link Line Construction  
Nellis Construction  
Acto-2 Investments  
Greater Toronto Sewer & Water  
Mattamy Homes

Why are Halton Hills developers so interested in helping Bonnette get elected as Mayor? How can Bonnette ever represent the taxpayers of Halton Hills when so many developers are contributing in the financing of his campaign?

Speaking of developers financing the campaigns of our political candidates, Brent Marshall who appears to have the most money behind his election bid, was asked at the recent "Meet the Candidates Meeting in Halton Hills,; "how much money and how many developers contributed to his election campaign to run for the Region's chair? Of which he replied he didn't know.

According to Brian Burton, Marshall is burying our region's combined tax increases so that it appears as though the Region has been doing a good job keeping taxes low.

Marshall is the so-called master-mind behind the Region's ambitions to tear down our perfectly good, existing multi-million dollar Region facility, only to build another multi-million dollar Region facility at a cost of hundreds, upon hundreds of millions of dollars to Halton taxpayers.

When we questioned the former Halton CAO's academic credentials, asking him through his administration; what qualifies him to function as our Region's top bureaucrat, but also analyze the ergonomics of a multimillion dollar architectural design of a government building, and formulate a new, so-called improve design? Mr. Marshall's administration replied: " A. Brent Marshall had successfully completed a "T.J. Mahony Road School" course" in 1984", of which the scope of the course encompassed - roadway maintenance and operation functions.

A. Brent Marshall, has failed, when asked, to produce any academic credentials qualifying him to act as one of the Provinces top

CAO's. In our opinion, the chief bureaucrat has even less credentials to qualify him as a politician. We highly suggest before you go to the polls to vote for Mr. Marshall, you ask him if he can produce a high school graduation certificate, or its equivalent.