

# Six contenders eye opening in Ward 2 local council

By Dominik Kurek  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

It is anybody's race for town council in Oakville's Ward 2 in the upcoming municipal election with no incumbent running and six individuals hoping to get the seat.

The current local councillor for the area, Cathy Duddeck, is trying for the town/regional council seat in the ward.

So, running for the town council position are Joe Giraldi, Cheryl McCullagh, Bruce Grant, Stephan Bobesich, Pam Damoff and John Pilcher.

## Stephan Bobesich

Bobesich, 24, believes Ward 2 needs some young blood to recharge.

A life-time resident of the ward, Bobesich is a senior account executive with a Toronto firm. He has degrees from McMaster University in communications and multimedia and a postgraduate degree from Sheridan College in human resources.

One of the issues he wants to focus on is the redevelopment of the Department of National Defence (DND) lands and the redevelopment of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School.

"Any development on the DND



## Fourth in a series

lands needs to be reflective of its adjacent neighborhood and so should be comprised of low density, single detached homes at a comparable unit value," he wrote in an email.

He is worried about the push for installing stadium-scale field lights at Aquinas school and in other neighbourhoods, which he wants to fight.

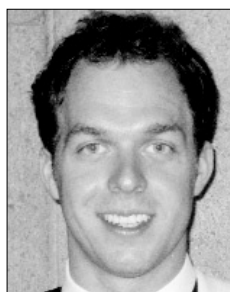
He believes Ward 2 needs more trees.

"The devastation of trees in this ward needs to stop; stricter policy needs to be implemented, which focuses on the preservation of our precious ecosystems," he said. "The community needs to forge ahead with the re-vitalization project of Kerr Street, so that it can be the revered area it once was prior to its neglect."

Bobesich has been involved in various community initiatives and has been a participant at town meetings such as bylaw reviews, council meetings, OMB reviews and more.

## Pam Damoff

One of the key issues for Damoff in



Stephan Bobesich



Pam Damoff



Joe Giraldi

the upcoming election is ensuring proper fiscal management at the town, which is exactly in her line of work..

The 51-year-old is an Oakville-based financial analysis consultant. She has lived in Oakville and the ward for 18 years and has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Western Ontario.

Over the years she's worked or volunteered with town staff, residents' associations, the Kerr Village BIA, local businesses and community groups. She's been an organizer with various community events.

She is focusing her election campaign on three major issues.

"I call it the three Rs. So it's responsible development, responsible fiscal management and responsible community," she said.

For development, she wants to

ensure that the character of the neighbourhood in Ward 2 in maintained. She also mentioned the DND lands that will be redeveloped which will have to be looked after.

"In terms of the community, it's making sure that our facilities and services are either maintained or enhanced in Ward 2, things like the libraries, recreational facilities or parks," she said.

The third R is ensuring that money is spent wisely and responsibly, she said.

"I think we always have to be responsible with other people's money, but that's incumbent on us as a council to spend the money wisely. But when you're going to be looking at the budget, when you're going to be looking at cuts, look at them realistically," she said. "Every year when the town does its budget presenta-

tions they look at budget cuts. Every year the things that are on there — one of them — is closing our outdoor pools. Every year I go up there and do a delegation and say don't close it."

She was one of the individuals who fought to keep Brookdale Pool open.

"I just find it frustrating that the things that are put forward are things like cutting library hours, not hiring firefighters and closing outdoor pools," she said.

She also added that as a councillor she would meet with residents on a regular basis.

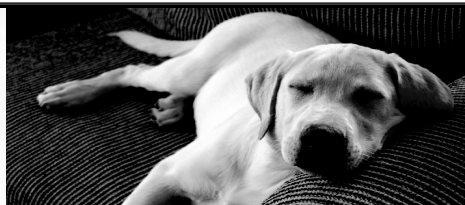
## Joe Giraldi

Giraldi, 53, has lived in Oakville for 30 years and operated his hair salon in downtown Oakville for that time. He is also a manufacturer of beauty products. He's lived in Ward 2 for 15 years and is the current chair of the Downtown Oakville BIA. The end of his four-year term coincides with the appointment of a new council after the election.

"I bring my experience of everyday life in business as well as the years of giving to the community in volunteer work. And I've sat as chair of the downtown Oakville BIA for four years, working for 400 businesses," he said.

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