

# Mulvale tackling life beyond politics

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with meetings — she's on the Wellspring board of directors, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust board — she had a luncheon with its head and former Toronto mayor David Crombie — and heads up the board of OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System).

Mulvale has also founded her own company, Avancez Enterprises, which takes its name from the Town of Oakville's motto, Avancez, which means to go forward.

"That's very much my philosophy. To always go forward," said Mulvale.

"There's always a joy in my life. There are always opportunities. I'm not being Pollyanna, but it's because of some of the sadness in my life that I can be positive."

Ann Mulvale

At times it's been challenging to do so. Perhaps it is after being mayor for so long.

But if the change is challenging for Mulvale, she says she has learned a lot

from past challenges — some a lot more earth shattering.

Losing an election and coming very, very close are not new to the seasoned politician. She's been there before — and early in her political career.

While Mulvale was acclaimed for two of her six terms as mayor, she fought election battles to earn the job in her other terms.

In fact, Mulvale lost her first bid to be a town councillor in 1978 as well as her first bid to be mayor in 1985.

Mulvale came back to win a councillor's seat in 1980 and won the mayor's job in 1988 with a resounding victory.

Educated in England, Mulvale came to Canada in 1969 just days after she was married to her husband, Peter.

By 1972, the couple had settled in Oakville where they raised their sons, David and Robert.

First elected mayor of Oakville in 1988, Mulvale was acclaimed for a second term in 1991. The long-time north Oakville resident was re-elected in 1994 and again in 1997 and was acclaimed for her fifth term as mayor in 2000.

In 2003, the vote was close — so close that it was challenged in court. Mulvale won by 28 votes.

Mulvale has a lengthy resume. Her passion for community involvement began as a volunteer.

She established a day care centre and the White Oaks Toy Library.

Mulvale looked to the political arena in 1977 as chair of the College Park Residents' Association.

She was involved in the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing and decree in 1978 that demanded Oakville grow north of the QEW.

Two years later she chaired Oakville's National Year of the Child Committee and in 1980 was elected a regional/town councillor.

In 1985 Mulvale tried for the mayor's job, but placed second to winner Bill Perras.

From 1986 to 1989, Mulvale headed the United Way of Oakville.

In 1988 Mulvale — still with the Oakville United Way — won the mayor's seat.

Mulvale was Oakville's first-ever recipient of the Athena Award



Ann Mulvale

that honours individuals who strive to attain the highest levels of achievement in their fields, while advancing opportunities for women. She is on the Athena Foundation board of directors.

Mulvale has served on the Mayors' and Regional Chairs' Committee for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and the Greater Toronto Services Board.

She was on the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario, was

"It was always about being engaged in the community I care about passionately and by extension, the nation of Canada. I know there's life beyond politics and I'm taking some time for Ann Mulvale."

Ann Mulvale

appointed to the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel and its Gridlock Sub-Panel.

A past president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Mulvale was instrumental in securing passage of Ontario's new Municipal Act and Memorandum of Understanding.

Mulvale's personal challenges began within her own family life as a child.

Mulvale was later widowed at the young age of 44 and had two sons to put through university.

It was 1995, when her husband, Peter, died of malignant melanoma.

She also overcame her own brush with cancer. In 1997, Mulvale having just signed her

nomination papers for the 1997 municipal election, was herself diagnosed with the same cancer that her late husband had, but she survived.

Then she had to cope with the deaths of family members, some of them coming within a very short time of her husband's passing.

All in all, there have been tough times, but that's when they say the tough get going.

"I'm a survivor," she said, yet the Oakville resident said she tries to remain gracious.

"It's less wearing on me as an individual to go forward," she said.

"There's always a joy in my life. There are always opportunities," she said. "I'm not being Pollyanna, but it's because of some of the sadness in my life that I can be positive."

While she said she tries hard not to be an overbearing mother-in-law, Mulvale said she now has more time to spend with her sons and more opportunity to visit her son David, who recently married but lives in the United States.

And, with a strong Christian background, Mulvale said she anticipates having time to devote to some endeavours in that direction to give back.

Mulvale's political career spans a period of 26 years.

"It was always about being engaged in the community I care about passionately and by extension, the nation of Canada," she said.

"I know there's life beyond politics and I'm taking some time for Ann Mulvale," she said.

Looking back, Mulvale reflects on the many individual contacts she's had. People who wanted the mayor's ear because of personal crisis, or the legal secretarial class she spoke to and while congratulating them, challenged them to become lawyers — and the one young woman who later did.

Then there was the parent whose adult child got into trouble with alcohol. And a year later, that adult told Mulvale they had been sober since.

Then there's the "big picture stuff."

Mulvale is proud of the last term of council — where council wasn't always cohesive, achieving a Natural Heritage System (NHS) for north Oakville and a settle-

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Location: Exit Walkers Line go south to Fairview St. turn right count two stop lights; we are on your left, turn left in the median.

## 'Tis the Season To Renew

2007 Town of Oakville Annual Dog Licence Application

Please return to the Oakville & District Humane Society with payment in full. Pay in person, by fax 905-845-1973, mail c/o Oakville & District Humane Society, 445 Cornwall Road, Oakville, ON L6J 7S8, email doglicence@oakvillehumane.ca, by phone 905-845-1551 OR visit the Town of Oakville Municipal Building, located at 1225 Trafalgar Road, during office hours.

Type:  New  Renewal  
Fees: \$50.00 if your dog is NOT spayed or neutered  
\$25.00 if your dog IS spayed or neutered  
Save \$5.00 if purchased before February 15, 2007!  
Seniors over the age of 65 years, pay half price.

Payment  Cash or Debit (in person only)  
 Cheque made payable to the Oakville & District Humane Society.  
 Credit Card:  VISA  Mastercard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Oakville, ON \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Sign here to authorize the Oakville & District Humane Society to release your phone number(s) in the event your dog is found. \_\_\_\_\_

Dog Information  
Please contact the Humane Society with any changes to this information, including change of home address, animal ownership or status.  
Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Colour \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  Spayed  Neutered \_\_\_\_\_ Microchip/Tattoo # \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterinary Clinic \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete one form per dog. Additional forms available at your veterinarian, local pet retailers, libraries, the Town of Oakville and Humane Society by December 1st.

## Pud



By Steve Nease  
snease@haltonsearch.com