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Ward 3 hopeful Matchett says if elected he'll fight for rural Milton

Reasons for running again now even stronger

Melanie Hennessey

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A "strong voice" for rural Miltonians is what Rick Matchett says he'd bring to the table if elected as a Ward 3 councillor next month.

The local resident -- who ran for a seat on council in the last election but was defeated -- has put his name forward once again, going up against incumbents Cindy Lunau and Jan Mowbray.

While he admits he was discouraged when he didn't win last time around, he said his reasons for running now are even stronger.

"The rural section of Milton is becoming smaller," he pointed out. "We need a strong voice to fight for what its residents want and need."

The 55-year-old said he thinks growth is happening too fast and that the Town needs to sit back and take a look at the situation that has resulted.

"Our (Ward 3 residents) taxes are paying for that growth," he noted.

Matchett explained he's not opposed to tax increases if they're for money that needs to be legitimately spent.

In terms of Town facility growth, he questioned why things like arenas and the future art centre are all located on the east side of Milton.

"Why not put a satellite library in Campbellville?" he said. "We have to look at the town as a whole."

The upcoming ward realignment is another of Matchett's big concerns -- a situation he said also calls for a strong voice to ensure Ward 3 "doesn't become the forgotten child."

"We must find ways to be heard clearly at Milton and Region council, even as we become a smaller minority," he said.

Matchett noted that people in rural Milton are quite concerned with the proposed Flamborough quarry, given its proximity to the town's border.

He said he'd like to see a bylaw put in place that would prevent trucks coming from the quarry from using Ward 3 roads.

"We need to say, 'We don't want traffic in our neighbourhood'," he said.

The Region's Green Cart program -- which is currently at the pilot project stage -- is also a big concern for

those in the rural area.

He said if it's found that the program is a good thing, he wants to make sure Ward 3 residents have all information available to them on costs and benefits.

And if it's not a viable option, he said he doesn't want the Green Carts to be forced on rural Miltonians just because those in the urban area desire them.

Matchett, a married father of three and grandfather of one, works as a self-employed tax consultant. He's been an active volunteer in the community since coming to Milton in 1982.

He can be reached at (519) 856-4536 or rick.matchett@sympatico.ca. For more information visit www.rickmatchett.com.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



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