

Bird faces challenge from Gandubert for Ward 3 region

By David Lea
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

There is no shortage of election issues in Ward 3.

Some of the largest include the 900-megawatt gas-fired power plant, proposed for the Ford-owned lands of 1500 Royal Windsor Dr., growth and what to do with land soon to be vacated by Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) and Linbrook, Chisholm and Brantwood public schools.

On Oct. 25, Ward 3 will have two choices for the Town and Regional Councillor position.

The incumbent Keith Bird, 68, will be trying to keep his job while the former Oakville Soccer Club chief administrative officer Jean C. Gandubert, 51, will be doing his best to unseat him.

Keith Bird

A resident of Oakville since 1969, Bird has an extensive record of serving the public and is currently hoping to be elected to his 12th term as the Town and Regional Councillor for Ward 3.

With about half his life spent working on Oakville's council, Bird says he is what is needed as the ward faces some of its toughest challenges.

"Past performance is a pretty good indicator of future performance," he said.



Sixth in a series

"We've now, after 30 years here, created a very desirable community. Southeast Oakville didn't just happen. It's come building by building, issue by issue, creating heritage districts, heritage highways, working with individual builders and architects to get something most people are proud of. That's the legacy."

On the issue of the 900-megawatt power plant Bird said he voted to pass the interim control bylaw, which blocks power plants with a capacity greater than 10-megawatts from establishing themselves in Oakville.

He also voted in favour of passing the Health Protection Air Quality Bylaw to help regulate the amount of air pollution local industry emits.

He also said that if re-elected he would push for the passing of all 35 recommendations contained within the Southwest GTA Air Quality Task Force's report.

Among these task force recommendations was a call that no new major sources of pollution be established in the already over-taxed Oakville-Clarkson Airshed.



Keith Bird



Jean C. Gandubert

Bird was also one of only two councillors to vote against Oakville committing \$200 million towards the new Oakville hospital stating that paying for the construction of the hospital is a provincial responsibility.

While Bird did not specify what he wants to see established on the OTMH lands, once the hospital moves to Third Line and Dundas Street in 2015, or what he wants to see established on the soon to be vacated lands of Linbrook, Chisholm and Brantwood public schools, he did float some ideas about what southeast Oakville needs.

"You take a look at the demographics, the long-term sports need trends. Clearly we've got an aging population and today in southeast Oakville we don't have a seniors' drop in centre. We also don't have a major recreational facility," said Bird.

"There are all kinds of things that are not here. We don't have an indoor 50-metre swimming pool. I'm not saying we should

have this on one of these sites, but clearly I think southeast Oakville is going to need some kind of recreational complex, maybe not identical to Glen Abbey or White Oaks, but something like that."

Bird also noted he understands the need for a long-term controlled growth strategy, which minimizes any negative effects on the natural environment while maximizing compatibility with existing communities.

In addition to his council experience, Bird worked for 30 years as the regional manager of TRW, a multi-billion dollar automotive parts manufacturer, until his retirement in 1992.

During his time with council Bird has served on numerous committees including the Halton Regional Police Services Board and the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

He has also served on the board of directors of such organizations as the Halton Housing Authority, OTMH, the Oakville Harbours Development Authority, the Halton Museum Board, the West Oakville Ratepayers Association and many others.

Bird is married and has two children.

Jean C. Gandubert

Gandubert, who currently runs a consulting company, said he wants to make a difference in representing community views and providing a new approach to finding solu-

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