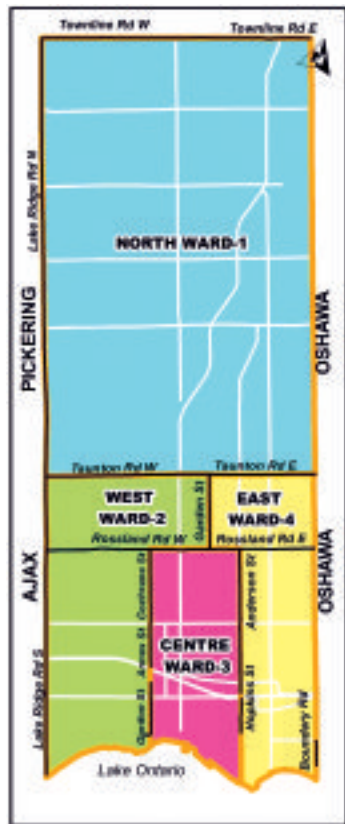


# Residents of north ward will vote to elect new councillor in June 16 byelection



Seat left vacant following Derrick Gleed's appointment to regional council in February

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**BROOKLIN** -- Residents of Brooklin and other parts of north Whitby will soon choose a new representative to speak up for them on local council.

A byelection will be held in June to replace Derrick Gleed, the north ward councillor who was appointed to regional council following former councillor Lorne Coe's resignation. Mr. Coe was elected Whitby-Oshawa MPP in the Feb. 11 provincial byelection.

Under the Municipal Elections Act, council's options were to appoint someone or hold a byelection for electors eligible to vote in the north ward.



METROLAND FILE PHOTO

**WHITBY** -- Derrick Gleed has been appointed regional councillor for Whitby, replacing former councillor Lorne Coe who resigned after winning the provincial byelection. A byelection to replace him as north ward councillor is set for June 16.

"We've gone through the appointment process ... (now) I think it's really critical to have the local vote and the democratic process," said west ward Councillor Chris Leahy at a meeting on March 21.

The byelection is expected to cost about \$85,000, funded primarily through the Town's election reserve.

Earlier council discussions on the matter centred on the need to strike a balance between a democratic process to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term (the next municipal election is in 2018) and reducing the impact on community members.

Several councillors brought up the issue of "voter fatigue" -- this will be the sixth election to take place in Whitby in the past two years. There was a provincial general election in June 2014, a municipal general election in October 2014, a federal byelection in November 2014, a federal general election in October 2015, and the recent provincial byelection.

To increase voter turnout, coun-

cil has established Internet and telephone voting as the voting methods for the byelection. While official voting day is June 16, north ward residents can cast their votes online or

by telephone any time during the voting period. Voter assistance centres and a telephone helpline will allow election officials to answer residents' questions and guide them through the voting process.



Lorne Coe

"The fact that we're looking at an Internet-based, telephone-based voting process is a massive step forward and doing it on a one-ward (basis) gives us a chance to potentially work out some bugs that may pop up (and) do something new that we can then

introduce in 2018," said Coun. Gleed.

The Town of Ajax relied solely on Internet voting in the 2014 municipal election and saw an increase in the overall voter turnout from 25 to 30 per cent, according to staff. The voter turnout for Whitby was 26.8 per cent in 2014.

Interested candidates can obtain nomination forms from the office of the town clerk or on the Town's website. Nomination papers must be filed in person, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the clerk at the Town of Whitby municipal building, 575 Rossland Rd. E.

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, April 29 and on nomination day, Monday, May 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A signed consent to the nomination, a declaration of qualification by the candidate and a filing fee of \$100 are required at the time of filing.

Call 905-430-4315, e-mail elections@whitby.ca or visit www.whitby.ca/byelection for more information.

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