

Latchford first to file nomination for mayoral race

Ameliasburgh councillor seeks top seat while colleagues Best, Thompson intend to run for another term

CHAD IBBOTSON
STAFF WRITER

After years of trying to effect change from the outside Sandy Latchford said she got into politics to try to do it from the inside.

After serving on council since 2006 Latchford recently filed nomination papers with the County in a bid to win the mayor's seat in this year's election.

"There were rumours out there, people had said to me over the holidays 'we hear you're going to run' ... and I thought well I'll just be right up front and say 'yes I am running,'" she said.

The campaign period began on Jan. 4 and will culminate on election day on Oct. 25.

Latchford said she has enjoyed being on council and learning how municipal governments work, how they don't work and was excited to take the next step.

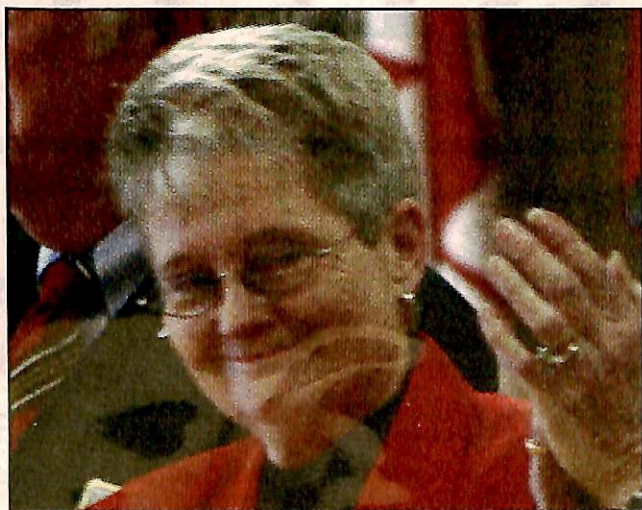
"I think this council has made changes in governance and changes in policy and procedures in the right direction. We've moved, for example, from individual committees, like the planning committee and the parks and recreation committee to committee of the whole," she said.

She said she would like to see those positive changes continue and would like to see more changes in how the County does its audits and budgeting activities.

"I have some ideas on how we might continue to make further changes to improve the accountability and transparency," she said.

Latchford grew up on a dairy farm near Wellington and would eventually become an educator. She worked within the faculty of education as an associate professor and was also the director of services for students with disabilities.

During her tenure as a professor, Latchford served on several provincial, federal and international boards and committees in various roles of responsibility including treasurer and chair. She has worked as an advocate for persons with disabilities for years and was appointed by order in cabinet to the New Brunswick Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons in 1996 and was reappointed and served consecutively until 2003 serving as Chair.



EFFECTING CHANGE With years of experience as an advocate for disabled people and a post-secondary professor, Sandy Latchford is looking for another role serving people: County mayor. (Chad Ibbotson/Gazette staff)

learning disabilities. Over a span of 20 years she received five other awards for outstanding professional service in her field including one national, two provincial and two international.

In 2007 Latchford was awarded the University of New Brunswick President's Medal, honouring outstanding teaching, research and service over the span

of her career at the university.

Latchford said during her time as an advocate for the rights of the disabled she became very familiar with the nature of politics.

"I thought I would go to the other side of the table and see if I can effect change from within the system as opposed to being outside the system," she said.

Upon her retirement from the university, Latchford headed back to the county. Before long she became involved with politics, winning a seat as a councillor of Ameliasburgh.

Latchford said the county is facing a significant challenge trying to enable growth while at the same time maintaining the

attraction of the county to both tourists and the people who live here. She said she wants to work to keep that balance.

Latchford is confident in her ability to lead the county into the next year.

"All of it has been an excellent learning experience and I will bring all of that to the mayoral position," she said.

Latchford wasn't the only aspiring politician to get a jump on the campaign this week. Incumbents Ray Best and John Thompson have filed for their seats in North Marysburgh and Sophiasburgh respectively, while Jamie Forrester has filed papers to run for the Athol seat Brian Marisset announced he will not seek again this fall.

SANDY LATCHFORD W.I. MEMBER
RUNNING FOR MAYOR

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Mayoral candidate Sandy Latchford (left) with Hiller Councillor Peggy Burris and Sophiasburgh Councilor John Thompson at the County's New Year's Levee on Sunday.

TWO W.I. MEMBERS ATTENDING NEW YEARS
LEVEE

In 2005 Latchford won the National Excellence in Volunteer Recognition Award from the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada for dedication and hard work for the cause of