

Former volunteer firefighter making second bid for seat on council

BRIGHTON
INDEPENDENT
JUNE 5/14

By John Campbell

News - Cramahe Township - Municipal candidate Ken Awender has some advice for residents content with the status quo: "Don't vote for me because it's just a waste of your time."

He's running for office for the same reason he did four years ago, to bring "a breath of fresh air" to council by offering "new ideas."

The township has grown "stagnant" he says, where "nothing really changes."

But it's time it did, and the area most in need of change is infrastructure, especially roads, says Awender.

"There's no reason we should be driving down beat-up, old dirt roads ... that are embarrassing," and can't be travelled "without worrying about losing a hub cap or wrecking your suspension."

Although Awender failed to win a seat on council in the last municipal election, the loss didn't diminish his interest in township business. He's become "a permanent fixture" at its meetings when not working as a firefighter in Toronto, "to learn a little more about the township [and] how it operates," and, at the same time, act as "a watchdog" for the taxpayers, by asking questions and offering comment.

Awender admits the first time he ran he "was a little angry with the township [and] had some issues" over his being let go as a volunteer firefighter in 2010 after raising concerns about how the fire department was being managed.

"To this day I still don't know what happened ... it was never really explained," Awender says of his dismissal. As president of the Cramahe Township Firefighters Association at the time, "I was just speaking on behalf of some of the other disgruntled employees."

He challenged his "wrongful dismissal" and the Ministry of Labour later awarded him termination pay of less than \$500 based on his four years of service, but money wasn't his goal when he took up his fight with the township, he says.

However, "it didn't get me my job back."

Now, as before, he's prepared to

work for the residents of Cramahe in a different capacity, and should he be elected, Awender could find himself at the table with some of the same council members who supported his termination.

He doesn't believe that would make for an awkward working relationship.

"I don't think there would be an issue," he says, because he's "got to

know a few of them" since then and, by attending meetings, he's come to understand the "reasoning" of council members in making decisions.

He's also better informed of what's taking place in the township, which is why he's made infrastructure improvements the focus of his election campaign—"the biggest concerns" he hears from residents have to do with

the roads—and has vowed to represent all "four corners" of Cramahe, "rural and town."

Awender is also a past president of the Whitby Volunteer Firefighters Association and was a member of the board of directors for the Durham Condo Corporation (1995-1999) and then Durham Region's non-profit housing corporation (1999-2003).

BOOK SIGNING: Keenleyside launching new book

NORTHUMBERLAND
TODAY JUNE 5/14

Award-winning author visits Grafton June 7

CECILIA NASMITH
Northumberland Today

GRAFTON — A public reception in Grafton Saturday will help Gourmand World Cookbook Award-winner Terry Keenleyside introduce his newest book.

Keenleyside will be at Penumbra Books & Art at 105 Old Danforth Rd. to launch *At The Table: Nourishing Conversation and Food*.

"Having served in the diplo-

matic corps, Terry is a natural choice for the Penumbra Press memoir series featuring retired foreign-service officers from Canada," John Flood of Penumbra Books & Art said in a recent press release.

Other books Keenleyside has written for Penumbra Press include *Roaming the Big Land: Flavours of Canada*, *Missing The Bus*, *Making The Connection: Tales and Tastes of Travel* won the Gourmand World Cookbook Award for English Canada in the

food and culinary travel categories.

He has also written a novel, *The Common Touch*, that was a finalist for the best first novel by a Canadian in 1977.

The widely traveled academic and former journalist will be on hand to sign books from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, and everyone is invited to drop in and meet him.

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In Memoriams

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY
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In Memory of
Percy Hoskin
October, 1913 - June 8, 2010



Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us,
We will always remember you.

Love, Jim and Marie

Warkworth Guides honours two special members

BRIGHTON
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Ranger Jessica Russell, on the left, received a Youth Commitment Award last week for her 13 years in the Guiding program at Warkworth, and Gracie Wells was presented the Lady Baden-Powell Award, the highest award a Guide can earn. It involves completing the Guide program while taking on extra initiatives in volunteering and community service. Photo: John Campbell

News - Warkworth - Two special presentations highlighted Warkworth Guiding's year-end ceremonies last week. Gracie Wells, 11, was presented Guiding's highest award, the Lady Baden-Powell Award, for completing the required four challenges during her three years as a Guide. The challenges involved earning numerous badges in various areas, such as taking part in a community activity or project, and sharing with the unit what she had learned about Lady Baden-Powell.

Jessica Russell, 17, was honoured with a Youth Commitment Award for her 13 years in the Guiding program, starting as a Spark and ending as a Ranger. Russell, who will be heading off to college next fall to study business, received several other certificates: Cookie Campaign Challenge ("in recognition of the skills she developed in event planning, money management, communications, public speaking, and customer service while supporting cookie campaigns"), Ranger Service Project (for her "positive contribution" to the community), Commonwealth Award (for completing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' Ranger program), and the Chief Commissioner's Gold Award (for "her notable achievement and commitment" to the vision, mission and values of Girl Guides of Canada).

Russell was the lone Ranger of Warkworth Guiding for three years, as there was no other girl in her unit. She worked with a Guide leader by email and telephone to complete projects and she helped out the Brownie unit as a junior leader.

There were 17 girls in Brownies, the largest of the five units; Sparks had three, Guides eight and Pathfinders two. Girls who volunteered at the sugar bush for the Warkworth Maple Syrup Festival received certificates. Those who sold seven or more cases of cookies were also recognized. There was a short presentation where girls advanced to the next level of Guiding.