

# Ward 5 race '85

## Gamble running hard

**By LYNN KELLY**  
When her friends suggested last June that she run for municipal office, Katie Gamble laughed and told them she wouldn't even run for a bus.  
But in the past few weeks, she's walked until her feet blistered, determined to meet the residents she hopes to represent as Ward 5's new councillor.



**KATIE GAMBLE**  
Preserve, protect

Running for office "was a decision I made completely and totally on my own," the wife of former conservative MP John Gamble said in an interview.

Her campaign managers, sons Mark, 26 and Blake, 23, are independent. And her small office consulting business, Tapatio, Inc., closed four months ago.

Mrs. Gamble said she prepared herself over the summer for the sacrifices she'd have to make as a career councillor, such as curtailing her hobbies — auction sales, furniture refinishing, oil painting and gardening.

Her past experience in community affairs — including a stint as president of the Box Grove Ratepayers' Association — was a stepping stone to municipal involvement.

She said she enjoyed helping Box Grove residents save the trees lining Ninth Line when the road was widened and she is proud of her efforts to apprise the provincial Energy Minister of the Ward's objections to construction of hydro transmission lines in the community.

Mrs. Gamble's political

approach has one central theme — preserve and protect.

She adamantly opposes "spot development" — incompatible land use that can threaten the unique character of established areas, such as downtown Main Street. She said Ward 5, a microcosm of the town, is a delicate balance of the old and new, of residential and commercial development, and must be preserved.

Praising council's recent refusal to permit a dry cleaning plant on Wellington Street, she stressed the need for sensible and more efficient land use that will respect both tenants' rights and industries' needs.

Mrs. Gamble does not support apartment development in Ward 5, but would agree to construction of rental units elsewhere in the town, provided it complements existing development. "I wouldn't want to see a two-storey home overshadowed by a 30-storey apartment complex," she said.

She recommended the town post its official plan at new residential sites so prospective home buyers would be aware of planned land uses that may affect their community.

If elected, she said she will oppose any renewed provincial interest in transporting dangerous cargo along the ward's rail line.

And because new housing lots are small, she will support the preservation of parks and construction of more unstructured recreational facilities, such as outdoor pools and rinks, as services crucial to the well-being of young families.

Mrs. Gamble said she will lobby for a Main Street by-pass, to eliminate downtown truck traffic. And she would like more east-west routes to link the region's communities into a cohesive unit.

## Young hopeful politically aware

**By LYNN KELLY**  
Shawn Watters has wanted to be a politician since he was 13 years old.

By Christmas, the 26 year old Markham District High School graduate will have a political science degree from Guelph University.

"I'm politically aware. I've always been interested in politics," said Mr. Watters, a student council representative who served as a scrutineer for Classcom in the last two elections.

His job as Ward 5 councillor would be "interpreting the needs and wants" of his constituents, something Mr. Landon and council in general have not been doing recently, Mr. Watters said.

He criticized Mr. Landon's "lack of response" to the ward's concerns about a proposed new Wellington Street dry cleaning plant. And he cited the town's decision to buy Wang computer system, instead of a comparable IBM system that was \$170,000 cheaper, as an example of what he calls council's "fiscal carelessness."

If elected councillor, Mr. Watters said he will work to direct and temper a growth frenzy that is threatening Markham's heritage and community spirit.

"Markham has not been very well planned," said Mr. Watters, a Markham landscaping employee who coordinated and designed the landscaping for Markham and Toronto home shows. "We have to decide what (Markham's) theme is because right now I see it as just a mish-mash." Because of poor planning, essential service, development, such as schools, parks and recreational facilities, has not kept pace with the town's re-



**SHAWN WATTERS**  
Wants to be in touch

sidential and industrial boom, he said.

He said council should more vigorously promote construction of rental complexes and seniors' facilities. Many young people and seniors — often long time residents of Markham — are being forced to leave the town because of inadequate, affordable housing.

One of his duties as councillor would be to "open the lines of communication between Town Hall and the community," because the needs of some constituents, especially those in rural areas, are being overlooked, he said.

A coach for Markham Minor Soccer Association, and member of his church youth groups, Mr. Watters wants to develop a school program that would discuss the "scary" problem of drinking and driving.

# MARKHAM

## 1985 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

**TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 12th, 1985

**POLLS OPEN**  
11:00 a.m. TO 8:00 p.m.

**PLEASE VOTE EARLY!**

Gary F. Roseblade, C.M.C., C.M.O.  
Town Clerk and Returning Officer

## He's running on record

**By LYNN KELLY**  
For a while, Election '85 seemed little more than de-javu for Ward 5 voters who, three years ago, elected their councillor by acclamation.

But two 11th-hour declarations turned a potential yawner into a lively contest. On Tuesday, residents of the town's most populous ward will have a choice of three candidates: a Bloor Street businessman, a Box Grove housewife, and a Guelph University political science student.

Incumbent Gordon Landon has served on Markham Town council for the past five years in various capacities — as chairman of the finance and budget committees for

the past three years, responsible for a \$20 million budget; as chairman of the task force that selected the town's new computer system and equipment; and as member of the planning and public relations Committee.

In a recent interview, he said he is proudest of his contributions to the Main Street facelift, and his assistance to Mintleaf subdivision homeowners, recently troubled by building delays and structural deficiencies.

He criticized the town's housing mix which he said neglects seniors and newly married couples. "I would like to see a different kind of housing," he said. "We're getting too many (houses) the same size, the same value. We should be catering to the upper end and lower end of the market."

He said council has zoned land for apartment development, and has encouraged developers to build rental units, but builders claim it is cheaper to build horizontally than vertically.

"We'll try as hard as we can to have somebody build them. We'll make concessions if we can," he said, but added that developers cannot be forced to build rental units.

But perhaps they can be forced to build schools, which have not kept pace with the town's population explosion.

"Maybe we have to say to the developer 'Sorry. You build the school and we'll let you build the subdivision,'" Landon said, although he admitted that approach may be unfair.

If re-elected, he said he will push for additional recreational facilities, including another arena in Ward 5.

But his top priority for Ward 5 in particular, and Markham in gener-



**GORDON LANDON**  
Roads need upgrading

al, is road improvement and development. He said the regional and provincial governments have unfairly delayed transportation funding, citing as an example the province's failure to commit funds for construction of Hwy 407.

He said one-third of York Region's population, and therefore one-third of its tax base, is centred in Markham, but "I don't think we're getting one-third of the services. I think we need to raise more flak. I think the town has to take a stronger stand."

Mr. Landon is president and chief executive officer of FRI Information Services Ltd., a Canadian corporation which provides on-line financial information to major Canadian banks, government bodies, and international investment brokers.

**VOTE**  
**KATIE**  
**GAMBLE**  
**COUNCILLOR**  
**WARD 5**

