

# Pickering race Common issues in Ward 3

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Lloyd Thomas, a 10-year resident of Whitevale, says the issues he has immersed himself in his neighborhood are common to the whole of Ward 3 in the town of Pickering.

"Although most of my activity has been focused in the Whitevale area, a lot of the issues are the same for all of Ward 3 — traffic, garbage and development," says the father of two who hopes to take the seat Nov. 14.

Thomas, part of the wave of IBM executives seeking office in municipal elections in the various regions this fall, has a record of involvement in area organizations.

He is an active member of PACT (Pickering-Ajax Citizens Together), a group that exposed the lack of ground cover, radiation and low flame temperature at the Brock West dump.

He is president of the Whitevale and District Residents Association, and was a founding member of COP (Coalition of Pickering).

He says growth is inevitable in Pickering, but questions why it has to be restricted to housing and business. "What about cultural centres, theatres, parks, museums, community colleges and farmland?" he asks.

He says Pickering has entered a strong growth period and that it is important that the town work together to make that growth beneficial to all.

"We have to take a closer look at the infrastructure that supports that growth and the direction that we want that growth to

take," he says.  
The ever-increasing traffic situation is also a top concern for Thomas. "The roads have become a danger to residents in all areas of Pickering," he insists. "Traffic is jammed up on the 401 Hwy. 2, Twyn Rivers, Cherrywood and Whitevale. Brock Road has become known as a killer road."

He would like to see plans put into action whereby proposed east/west routes like the Steeles/Taunton connection, the 407 and the 401 widening would become a reality.

Thomas claims Pickering

residents have become one of the most environmentally aware groups in all of Ontario and feels it is important that they spread that awareness to Metro and beyond.

"Everyone has to become more aware of the amount and the kinds of garbage we are creating, and where it ends up," he maintains. "We cannot continue on this path of environmental destruction."

He points out that Pickering now has the Brock West, Brock South and Beare Rd. landfill site surrounding it. "There's a threat of incinerators to the north and

west of us. We're in danger of being known as the garbage capital of Ontario."

He says his presence on council would make for a more serious approach to what he sees as the sensitive issues facing the town.

"I've always felt that only half of our representatives were listening. It's a frustrating experience. That's why I've decided to run for local councillor of Ward 3. I want to be involved in the decision-making process."

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