

# New councillors mark first six months

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

After six months of familiarization with the workings of Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council, rookie Ward 2 Councillor Nick Tatone feels he has "met his learning curve."

The IBM executive has met the challenge of municipal politics head on and wants to make his mark on the local scene now that he has learned how the process works.

"This job is important to me," he says. "I was keen on understanding the process. I feel confident I can answer all the phone calls now; I'm tuned in to what happened in the past."

A self-professed "corporate animal," Tatone confesses that while he always wanted to be a businessman running a corporation, he has come to appreciate the politician's place in the overall makeup of the town.

"I see it like being one-seventh of the corporate structure. I have a huge interest in it, even though I haven't had to invest any money in it."

He admits, however, that his IBM training made it a little difficult to get used to the servant's mentality essential for a municipal politician to succeed.

"At IBM, I'm a businessman with interpersonal skills and a staff to tend to the little things. On council, I would get a little frustrated at first when we would talk about the little things, feeling the staff should be handling them. But I've come to realize those things are important to people, so they are important to me as a councillor."

Despite reports of feuding and disagreements within council, Tatone believes the group works well together. "People are fast to criticize when two council members have a dispute. But we are a harmonious council and I feel I've been accepted by the others on council."

Tatone feels the most pressing

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need for the town is "a vision."

"What do we want to look like and what do we do to get there? The region doesn't have a vision. Markham does. We have some vision here, but we must expand upon it."

Tatone's vision would incorporate several areas, such as



NICK TATONE  
Vision needed

economic development, a self-reliance that sees the town plan its own destiny, increased security in light of increasing crime in the town and environmental responsibility and leadership.

Increased representation for Whitchurch-Stouffville at the regional level is essential, says Tatone. "To keep us from having our future planned by the bigger towns like Markham."

"Markham has us all planned out — a 'sleepy village' that should have no more sewage capacity." And they've given that view to the region," he says.

Tatone feels the addition of himself and Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles has contributed towards Council's interpersonal management skills.

He takes pride in his efforts in keeping the town's budget increase at 5.9 per cent. "I wanted 5.7 per cent, but I was happy with what we were able to do."

"I'm proud of having the roads looked at. The region is to pave part of Kennedy Rd. as well as putting new white lines on Hwy. 48, and putting up more road identification signs."

He is also happy to see the approval of the Gormley industrial plan and feels he has kept his word to his constituents with regard to keeping them informed and taking an interest in the small communities.

"I'm proud of all the meetings I attend during the week in Lemonville, at the Vandorf Hall, etc. We've made it so that these halls can be rented out so we can bring in more revenue. And I've been able to satisfy all the calls from residents."

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

For new Ward 5 Stouffville Councillor Doug Alles, his first half-year on the job has been a learning experience in which he has come to understand that compromise and acceptance are essential in politics.

Mr. Alles, named planning chairman by Mayor Fran Sainsbury upon taking office, says he is thoroughly enjoying his position and senses his efforts are being appreciated by residents.

And despite the heavy workload, he feels he is staying on top of things.

"I get back to everybody who calls me and I try to make myself available to people when they want me to come out to a banquet or other function. It means a lot to them and they are always appreciative that I'm there."

Councillor Alles likens his first few months as a councillor to learning how to jog. "It's been a learning experience. You eventually find a pace you're comfortable with without running out of time and energy, just like jogging."

He says it took a while to get over the frustration of not being able to change things without going through the legal process.

"You can't just take money from parks and put it into roads, for instance. We're not the building inspector or the town planner. We can't just overrule or overstep. The legal aspect must be respected."

The need for compromise wasn't difficult for him, he claims. "That wasn't new for me, because of my background with

IBM. A big part of politics is compromise. There are no blacks and whites. You have to know when to hold firm and when to give a bit."

He has come to appreciate the town's official plan as the tool for giving the town the direction it needs. "The plan is there. It must be stuck to. And we must be responsible. For instance, some

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people want a swimming pool for the town, but we haven't paid for the first phase of the Recreation Complex yet. There will be revenue from the new Gormley industrial build-up to pay for things like a pool. So we just have to wait for it."

He claims he has developed a



DOUG ALLES  
Learning experience

greater appreciation for the various areas and people who make up Whitchurch-Stouffville and that he tries to be mindful of the "human" aspect as planning chairman.

He likes to feel that as planning chairman he acts as the facilitator, allowing all councillors to have input in planning matters.

And he sees the recent trend of reduced funding to municipalities from the province as a challenge to council.

"We'll have to address the province's giving us more jobs but less money. For instance, they want us to allocate 25 per cent of the land in new developments for affordable housing. As it stands now, we'll end up with land just sitting there that we can't afford to do anything with."

He sees one of the more pressing concerns for council being the provision of services now that the town is becoming more urban.

"The areas we'll have to address include affordable housing and transportation. We're gradually going from a rural to an urban, or semi-urban community."

As for the future, he is pleased with the way council passed the amendment that will clear the way for the Gormley-404 industrial build-up, a development which will contribute significantly to the town's tax base.

And he's pleased with the communication he has established with his constituents. "We have meetings once a month. We sit down and talk about issues before council. It's important to keep the communication lines open."

## Blazing trails at Ballantrae P.S.

Ballantrae Public School students went west last Wednesday and Thursday with a production designed and performed by children in various classes. Entitled *Going West*, the play took the audience on a wagon train journey to the hot and dusty prairies, where cast members confronted Indians and other unknown elements. Costumes, decorations, make-up, backdrops and even babysitting services were provided by students and teachers at the school. In the photo at left, Grade 5 student Erika Lingohr (left) and Grade 7 student Cindy Williams look out over the horizon in a scene from the play. At right, Grade 7 student Andrea Wilson (left) ignores Susan Schader (far right) as she discusses something with another cast member. The two-act play boasted a cast of 32 and played to appreciative audiences for two nights.

Photos by  
Brent  
Lowery



## No vote yet on Bloomington water supply

By DENISE McDONALD  
Correspondent

Residents of the Bloomington community will have to wait a while longer before hearing Whitchurch-Stouffville Town Council's decision on whether to allow a piped water supply in their area.

The result of a developer's bid to erect 101 new homes, Council adopted a new official plan amendment Oct. 20, 1986 which proposed to change the land designation from rural to community residential.

It would also provide appropriate land use policies to

govern development. Under such policies, it was proposed future use would be serviced by a private drilled well and waste disposal system, with a minimum one-acre lot size for residential development.

However, a modification to the previous amendment is now being considered, proposing the community residential designation be changed to suburban residential serviced by a municipal water supply system in the Bloomington area.

And because this constitutes a significant change from the original proposal, a public

meeting was held in Latham Hall last Wednesday to inform residents of what they can expect and help alleviate their concerns.

Topping the list was the cost involved in hooking up to the municipal supply, and the potential impact it would have on existing wells.

According to Randy Alcorn, a representative for the developers, the cost is undetermined as yet.

"I don't like passing the buck but I'm just not capable of answering that question," he said. "However, it's my feeling the taxes derived from this

development will more than offset the increase. If this were not the case, none of York Region would experience any development."

Residents were also curious how the one-acre lot size was determined and what effect it would have on septic systems.

"With all the development occurring in hamlets, the Region of York performed a study in relation to the rural area," said Regional Chairman Eldred King.

"After recently updating that study, it was concluded, if a concentration of development was indicated where everyone was on a private well and septic, that particular community should be

assessed in relation to the quality of water and sewage impact on the total area."

Mr. King indicated the Region's answer was to enlarge lots and spread out density and impact on soil conditions.

Although resident Bob Lewis conceded it was optional they connect to the municipal supply, he said he "had trouble with the homeowners paying out the better part of \$200,000 for the developer to make money."

"It's been proven in studies that local improvement programs involving subsidies are just not possible because we don't have a health problem," said Mr. Alcorn.

Peter Duckworth, a hydrologist for the developer, said there is a rigorous review process associated with development of this type.

However, should any existing wells suffer from draw-down, Don Maitland from the Environment Ministry said there would be no compensation because it's a municipal system provided for the homeowners' benefit.

"I think Mr. Alcorn should spell it out," said Mr. Lewis. "All he's talked about is the guarantees the professionals have given him. Am I right in saying the developers will not assume any responsibility if anything happens to my well?"

## Kennel bid is debated

By DENISE McDONALD  
Correspondent

"If there is a kennel operation anywhere of which you would approve, this is the one."

Such was Solicitor Christopher Holman's last directive to Whitchurch-Stouffville's Town Council in his bid to help secure a rezoning amendment for the property of Werner and Verena Jaegar, Bloomington Rd.

Mr. Holman appeared during a public meeting held last Tuesday evening in favor of the proposed amendment which would allow Mrs. Jaegar to operate a "hobby non-boarding kennel."

Although the present rural zoning would remain in effect, an additional use requirement would have to be approved in order to house 10 Boxer show dogs.

Said Cathi Lee, the real estate sales person who sold them the

property: "I'd just like to say I went to their previous home in Richmond Hill where they had a similar operation. I was very impressed with the cleanliness of the kennel and how well kept the property was. The dogs were not allowed to run loose; they were kept inside, and when outside, they were confined."

Although pointing out he wasn't in attendance at the meeting to raise an objection, Markham resident Sandro Veloci voiced concern the dogs might chase livestock on his father's property located south of the Jaegar's.

"If they're kept confined, I have no objections," he said.

"These dogs are probably worth 20 times that of livestock," said Mr. Holman. "Mrs. Jaegar would never contemplate letting animals of that value run around loose."

When asked how many dogs could be expected on the property at one time, he claimed there might be one to three litters of puppies per year on the average, with an outstanding female kept occasionally. At no time would there be more than eight or nine animals.

"I would just like to add a personal note if I may," continued Mr. Holman. "I also happen to be a Boxer breeder. And in my experience with the dog fancy, there is nothing but the highest respect for Mrs. Jaegar and her Boxers and that's a universal feeling."

Although members of Council indicated they would review the information and present their decision at a later date, Councillor Doug Alles added he felt "it would be a shame when she has 13 acres, not to be able to let her dogs have a run."

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