

INCUMBENTS FACING CHALLENGERS IN FIVE OF THE SIX WARDS

Where Whitchurch-Stouffville's voters live

Important issues like garbage disposal and traffic face residents as they contemplate who will make up the next Whitchurch-Stouffville council. Here's a guide to the town's six wards to make the decision-making process easier

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Staff Writer

With the Nov. 13 municipal elections less than a month away, local candidates and issues are now under the microscope.

Candidates in each of the Whitchurch-Stouffville wards have to deal with their area's unique mix of rural and urban lands, businesses and resources, and widely differing types and areas of population.

Current Mayor Wayne Emmerson is trying to retain the Mayor's Chain of Office for a third term, and is being challenged by Jeanne Major.

All council seats except that of Mark Carroll in Ward Two (Musselman's Lake/Ballantrae area) are being challenged by candidates ranging from "green" politicians to the old pros.

Ward 1: beautification, dry wells are issues

In Ward 1, the largely rural area in the northwest quadrant of Whitchurch-Stouffville, incumbent Steve Pliakas is being challenged by former politician Ivanka Bradley, who was on council from 1994 to 1997. The ward runs from Hwy. 404 in the west to McCowan Rd., and north from Vandorf Road to Davis Dr.

It is the least-populated ward, with 2,230 eligible voters. Of course, the lists don't include children younger than 18, so these statistics can at least be doubled to get a truer sense of the population figures in each ward.

Two enclaves of estate homes are located here, as well as the hamlets of Vandorf and Wesley Corners.

Most of the municipality's 11 tracts of the York Regional Forest cover this area.

Vandorf has a strong ratepayers group with Frank Martino as its president. Around a year ago, the group unveiled its "downtown" beautification program which would include picturesque plantings and additions to the bridge crossing Woodbine Ave. and improvements to the Main Street area. Right now, "it is very difficult for people to explore their community on foot or by bicycle," Martino noted. The ratepayers would also like the hamlet to develop a more distinct identity, and lead the way for other hamlets to do the same.

The focal point for Vandorf is the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and the Latham Gallery West.

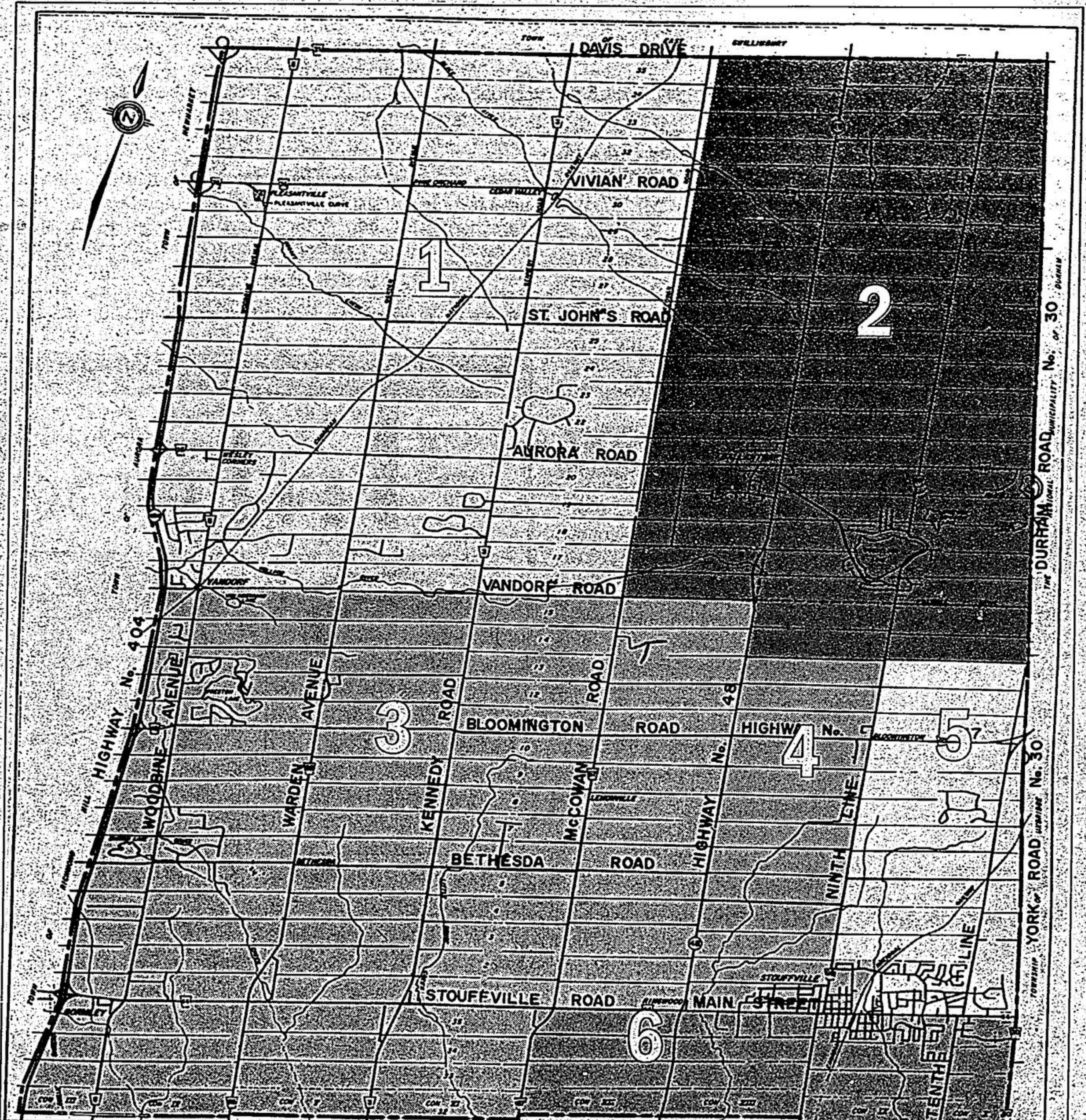
Dry wells in the northern part of Vandorf are an ongoing problem, with some residents getting their drinking water from large tanks set on their front lawns before new wells could be dug. Residents are concerned about the number of large water users here, including golf courses and large companies such as King Cole Ducks on Aurora Rd.

Ward 2: No opponent for Carroll in rural area

Rolling hills country side and the distinct hamlets of Ballantrae and Musselman's Lake make up Ward 2.

Bounded by Davis Drive and the East Gwillumbury border to the north, McCowan Road to the west, York-Durham Road to the east, Vandorf Road to the south, the ward is one of the town's largest in size.

Ward 2 has lots of residential character. Musselman Lake, located at the southeast end of the ward. As far as municipal election races go, Ward 2 isn't having one. At least not this time out. Incumbent Mark Carroll picked up an acclamation,



marking the only uncontested ward in the town.

Ward 3: North Road, gravel pits are issues

Ward 3 saw a squeaker of a race between incumbent Councillor Peter Dobrich and resident Sophie Angelis three years ago: 10 votes decided the winner.

A total of 2,654 people can head to the polls in this ward stretching from Hwy. 404 to Hwy. 48 (and to McCowan Rd. in town), and from Vandorf Rd. down to the neighbouring municipality of Markham which starts just south of Stouffville Rd.

Both candidates are squaring off again in their ward, and the winner will be dealing with issues as diverse

as whether dumping should be allowed in the ward's many gravel pits to how to finally solving the problem of Preston Lake's North Road.

For decades residents have been trying to keep North Road, which is essentially a private right-of-way, adequately maintained for people and emergency vehicles to get through. Over a year ago, the town of

Whitchurch-Stouffville granted an annual \$15,000 to a specially-appointed Roads Committee to oversee the care and maintenance of the road. The road is now passable, but friction within the community continues.

Several gravel pits, at least one of which is being being filled at present, can be

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