

COUNCIL, MAYORAL CANDIDATES AT FINAL PRE-ELECTION SESSION

Gravel pits to amalgamation at Vandorf meeting

from page 1

promised to ask the provincial government to relinquish its hold on gravel pits, allowing the town to monitor what goes into pits. A public meeting will be held in January, said Emmerson. In the meantime, the incumbent mayor pleaded with the residents to contact Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees and outline their concerns.

"The municipality should take them over," said Emmerson. "We should have the ultimate authority. As it stands, the province looks after it. I can't tell the province what to do."

If amalgamation is going to become a reality, Major stressed the need for Whitchurch-Stouffville to have a "strong-community-supported vision" in place before it happens. The 47-year-old candidate said she envisions a strong, healthy community complete with a trail system, a green space system, proper planning, the preserved town heritage and a community where the environment takes top priority.

There's an urgent need to start amalgamation readiness now, Major suggested. "Whitchurch-Stouffville is run-



WAYNE EMMERSON: Mayor says town should take over control of gravel pits from the province.

ning out of time," she said.

Ward 1 challenger Ivanka Bradley focused on the state of wells in the area, especially those in Vandorf. Last summer, eight wells in an upscale subdivision in Vandorf went dry, forcing residents to get their drinking, washing and cooking water from tanks supplied by York region.

The Bradley family home was without water for months. Wells are still threatened. "At least 80 homes are living with critical

water levels," said Bradley. "These are in an estate residential development. The planning failed us." Bradley promised to work with the municipality and York region to correct the water problem.

Ward 1 incumbent Steve Pliakes reminded the audience that during the Vandorf water crisis, he helped bring in regional officials who are the keepers of the water. As well, Pliakes said he organized a public meeting to iron out a strategy plan and is now part of the correction process, giving people new wells or deeper wells.

During his pitch, Pliakes reminded the residents that he was the only member of Whitchurch-Stouffville council not to support building the multi-million dollar pool, library and fitness complex downtown.

In the past three years, Pliakes said he's gotten roads paved, helped bring an art gallery to the ward, worked to improve the Vandorf Community centre and even rolled up his sleeves and washed dishes at a community social night.

Ward 3, including Vandorf is isolated from the rest of



JEANNE MAJOR: Challenger for mayor says town must have a vision before amalgamation takes place.

Whitchurch-Stouffville, said Ward 3 challenger Sophie Angelis. "We feel left out," said Angelis.

Angelis pointed out that a \$7-million pool, library and fitness complex is being build downtown, an art gallery has been established downtown and a fire hall recently opened in Ballantrae. "But, we didn't get any facilities in this area," said Angelis.

Growth and prosperity should not come at the expense of others, Angelis stresses. "With

strong representation on council, support and input by residents, we can all benefit without compromising our standards and quality of life," she said.

Dobrich said he comes to this election with an impressive record of service. He was part of designing the new secondary plan, a critical planning document, he said.

As well, the retired Ontario Hydro manager told the audience that he's more than just a pencil pusher. "I carried out the electrical work and did the plumbing in the local gallery," said Dobrich.

If elected, Dobrich promised to address the ongoing problems at North Road.

To emphasize his fiscal abilities, Dobrich pointed out that he was at the negotiating table when Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro was sold to Hydro One for more than \$6 million, a figure far higher than anyone anticipated. He also stressed that the town's \$12.5 million reserve has increased to \$14.5 million this year. And, as a bonus, there's been no tax increase since Dobrich joined council.

"I see no reason for their to be an increase next year," he said.

I HAVE AN IDEA...
that Whitchurch-Stouffville is the most desirable place to live in York Region

I HAVE A DREAM...
that it will be just as desirable a place to live in the future

I HAVE THE COMMITMENT...
to turn the dream into a reality

I HAVE THE HOPE...
that you will take part in shaping this future

on November 13
VOTE



Jeanne

Major for Mayor

in Whitchurch-Stouffville