

New restaurant will seat 200

Construction is nearing completion for a new restaurant being built by former Earl of Whitchurch owner Steve Fitzpatrick.

It features a new location (the site of the former Fullerton's across from the Earl) and a new name (the Crossroads Restaurant and Lounge) on Stouffville's downtown Main Street.

Once the heritage-style building is complete, it will have two patios and eating and bar areas on two floors with seating for about 200 people.

It will be a casual spot for people to dine, offer live entertainment and welcome young people and families.

Mr. Fitzpatrick operated The Earl of Whitchurch for more than five years.

Investing in soccer players

Young soccer players are benefiting

from an investment company's program to support the sport.

The Stouffville branch of Dundee Wealth Management, run by manager Ken Prentice, has donated \$3,000 to the local soccer club's under-7 division for equipment and uniforms.

The company is one of the sponsors of Cup Day, to recognize the division's winners, and a day-long soccer event at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area Aug. 26.

Under the Little Chips Soccer Program, a national program for four to 12-year-olds, the company produces a magazine for young soccer players with drills, exercises, nutrition tips and other information. There are about 1,000 players in the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Association.

For more information on the program, log on to www.littlechipsoccer.com

—Hannelore Volpe

Candidates tackle heavyweights in region's fall mayoral races

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Centre of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Durham Region, has taken issue with what he sees as rapid growth — which he referred to as "future shock" — in a community billing itself as "Country Close to the City".

"People move to Stouffville from Toronto and Markham because they want a small-town feeling," he said. "You can't stop progress but you can make it more palatable."

In Richmond Hill, Anastasios Baxevanidis, 62, is taking on Regional Councillor David Barrow for the office of mayor.

Mr. Barrow is a political mainstay, who wants to replace longtime mayor Bill Bell, who is also retiring this year.

Politics is "a must for everyone", Mr. Baxevanidis said.

Spurred by what he felt was an underwhelming voter turnout in 2003, Mr. Baxevanidis, a resident of five years who described himself as being very active in the community, stressed he wants the voters to tell him what they want in a "better" town.

Poverty in Richmond Hill along with seniors issues are specific planks in Mr. Baxevanidis' platform, he said, adding he has seen people sleeping on doorsteps.

"We are fantastic, but we could be better," Mr. Baxevanidis said. "It is not where we are, it is where we should be."

Asked why he is bidding for the mayor's chair, Mr. Baxevanidis replied by stating, "Why not?"

There are no candidates running for Aurora mayor this time without political experience. In November, Mayor Tim Jones will have to fend off challenges from two well known contenders — councillors Evelyn Buck and Nigel Kean.

In Markham, Stephen Kotyck, 47, is taking on Markham Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti, who hopes to replace retiring Mayor Don Cousens.

Mr. Kotyck, a telecommunications technologist, jumped into the political fray because he didn't want to see Mr. Scarpitti cruise into office without any competition.

"If there is so much voter apathy that no one was going to run against Frank Scarpitti, I was going to run against him," he said.

'People move to Stouffville from Toronto and Markham because they want a small-town feeling. You can't stop progress, but you can make it more palatable.'

Don Barker, candidate for mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville

"How much more difficult could the mayor's job be than working in the real world?"

Mr. Kotyck suggested a neophyte might be better for the job because longtime politicians often carry baggage, he added.

"What we need at the municipal level, provincial level and federal level is some fresh blood," he said.

On the issue of political baggage, Mr. Kotyck and Mr. Jones, Aurora's veteran mayor, agree — somewhat.

First elected mayor in 1994 after serving six terms as a councillor, Mr. Jones always encourages people eyeing political office to sit on council or committees before considering running for mayor.

"The advantage of someone who may have never run before

is they don't come with any baggage — they can only give criticism," Mr. Jones said, adding the disadvantage is they have no experience with the demands of council, specifically regional duties.

"The region is a good 40 to 50-per-cent of your job."

In Vaughan, Robert Craig is up against current incumbent Michael Di Biase, Regional Councillor Linda Jackson and newcomer Gino Ruffolo.

While never holding political office, this is Mr. Craig's second shot at being mayor. In 2003, he lost to Mr. Di Biase by about 10,000 votes, garnering 37 per cent of ballots cast.

Battling well-known names is a high hurdle to conquer, he said.

"That's the biggest challenge," Mr. Craig said.

"We have a very poor turnout in the first place and unless the incumbent has done something to tarnish the voter's impression of them, (the electorate) will vote exactly the same way. When everything is good, you have the same government forever."

Mr. Craig, 34, a resident of Vaughan for more than 20 years, continues to see problems with traffic congestion, Vaughan's rate of development, road infrastructure and the need for a hospital as sectors to improve, he said.

"Maybe I was a little naive to think I could come from nowhere and think I could do it," Mr. Craig said of his 2003 bid, adding his finish left him believing there was some thirst for a new mayor.

"It really gave me the feeling a lot of people were looking for change."

Mr. Ruffolo declined comment for this story.

The election is Nov. 13.

To comment on this story, e-mail Joe Fantauzzi at fantauzzi@ymg.com

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Garden experts talk

COMMUNITY

The Stouffville Horticultural Society presents TV gardening experts Denis Flanagan and Mark Cullen talking on healthy lawns and gardens at Latcham Hall Monday.

Proceeds benefit Stouffville's Community in Blooms program. A flower show begins at 7:30 p.m. with the presentation at 8.

The evening will also include refreshments, door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$5 for society members and \$10 for non-members.

Tickets are available at Candlelight and Memories, 6198 Main St., and the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

Mr. Flanagan appears on HGTV and Mr. Cullen on CTV.

Volunteers wanted

The following non-profit organizations in Whitchurch-Stouffville require volunteers:

- Evergreen Hospice, 905-472-5014 or www.evergreenhospice.org
- Stouffville Spirit Jr. A Hockey Club, stouffvillespirit.com or 905-642-2123.
- The Canadian Cancer Society, 905-294-5925, ext. 222.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, 905-727-1251
- Ontario Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 905-884-3839
- Parkview Home for the Aged, 1-800-363-2412.