

Smith wants to remain rural voice

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Ward 3 Councillor Clyde Smith is ready to do it all over again.

He's seeking his second term of office in the Nov. 13 municipal election.

This is the first time voters will be putting municipal mayors and councillors into office for four years, instead of three.

Making sure the ward's rural voice is adequately heard is his priority, particularly since council is dealing with many urban issues related to growth in Stouffville.

Mr. Smith was acclaimed three years ago as a rookie politician, after operating his own financial planning business for five years and working 22 years in management at a large corporation. He and his wife Margie have lived at Preston Lake community for 10 years.

The predominantly rural ward extends from Hwy. 404 to Hwy. 48 and from north of the Markham border to Vandorf Road. In the southeast part of the municipality, the ward boundary jogs in along Stouffville Road and McCowan Road.

"As councillor for the largest rural ward, I have tried to be a consistent voice to ensure that the rural residents get their share of the town's resources," Mr. Smith said.



CLYDE SMITH: Preston Lake resident seeking second term on Whitchurch-Stouffville council.

He's known for asking a lot of questions at council and doing his research. He makes sure he's knowledgeable about all the issues — both urban and rural — coming before council to make a well-informed decision, he said.

He lobbied for the new fire service agreement with York Central, which was put in place to improve emergency service to the residents of Preston Lake and Vandorf, made sure sufficient funds were available to renovate the Lemonville Community Centre this summer and continues to lobby for funds to keep rural roads in good repair.

A major concern of residents

in this area is maintaining their water supply for future years since all homes and buildings in the ward are dependent on well water.

"They are concerned about anything that could impact their source of water," he said.

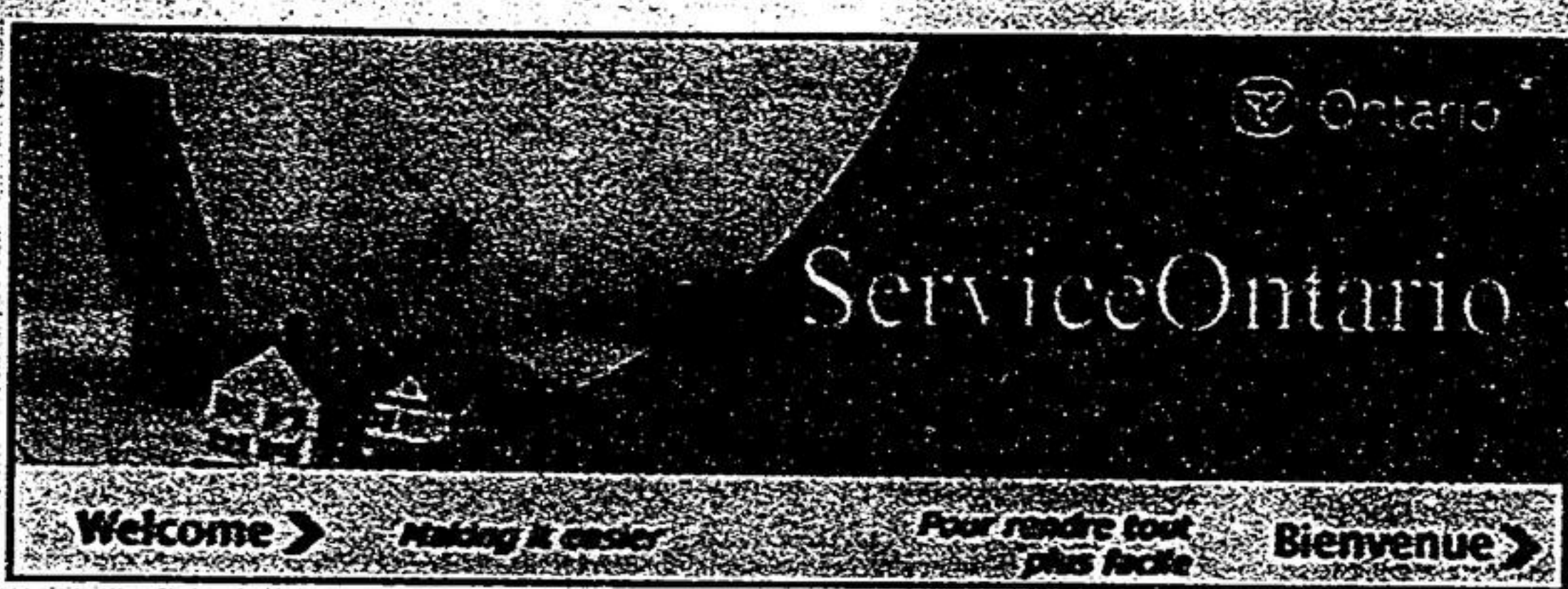
That includes new industrial development coming to Gormley and new subdivisions.

With a review of election boundaries coming in the new term, he'll fight to retain the ward system. If wards were eliminated and, along with them, the councillor in each ward, "who would a rural resident call if they had a problem?" he asked.

As a member of many boards and committees, many of them with an environmental focus, he's working to make Whitchurch-Stouffville a sustainable community.

Suburban sprawl, for instance, as it has been created in the past is not sustainable, he said. He'll be working to make sure any new development coming into the municipality is as sustainable as possible — environmentally, socially and economically. The most up-to-date concepts on sustainability have to be included in an updated secondary plan for Stouffville, he believes.

This is important since development will be occurring in the municipality for many years.



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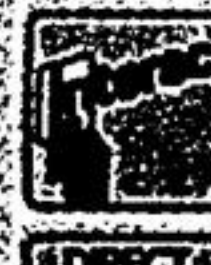
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