

# Community losing only daycare centre

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York Region.

If the Ballantrae Child Care Centre closes, parents will have to travel to neighbouring areas, such as Stouffville, Markham and Newmarket.

Ballantrae resident Jennie Creeggan, whose children attended the centre when they were younger, said Councillor Phil Bannon should have informed residents about the situation.

"It came as a huge shock to us when we read it in the (Sun-Tribune)," another parent, Alan Gray, said.

Many parents would have come to the summer council meeting had they known the issue was coming up, he said.

"Not one person I have talked to is in favour of the day care being moved," Ms Creeggan said.

It has operated in community centre for 18 years.

Ms Creeggan believes many people moved into the area because the daycare was next door to Ballantrae Public School.

The staff at the child care centre have always gone out

of their way" to meet children after they finished their after-school activities, she added.

Ms Pyke asked council for an extension of her lease in July.

At a meeting last week with the community centre's board of directors, town staff and about 60 anxious parents, Ms Pyke was advised to plead her case to council again.

"The town is not willing to change their new bylaw to include us in staying in the community centre," Ms Pyke said.

She requires about 3,000 square feet to provide child care during the day and before and after school.

Mr. Bannon has been negotiating with the York Region District School Board to have Ballantrae Public School provide before and after school care.

He is also talking to real estate agents in the area to see whether a location can be found for the younger children requiring all-day care.

About 30 of the children at the day care are of pre-school or kindergarten age, Ms Creeggan said, and they'll need a place to stay when the

school is closed for holidays and PA days.

Eva Peschke and Drew Allen have two children, ages three and six, who use the child care.

Having the day care at the school wouldn't help those seeking full-time day care, Mr. Allen said.

Alan and Cathy Gray's seven-year-old attended the Ballantrae Child Care Centre for several years and "really enjoyed it," Mr. Gray said. He was hoping their 14-month-old would be able to attend because it is so convenient. The family uses a Wee Watch provider in Markham.

Not having a day care in the community might discourage some people from moving to Ballantrae and that could affect housing prices, he said.

The parents won't be left "high and dry," Mr. Bannon said, vowing that they would have day care available to them next year.

To look up locations of licensed providers, log on to [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca), click on to services, then children's services, child care and child care sites.

York Region's Community and Housing Contact Centre can be contacted at 1-888-256-1112.

# 17 candidates in election

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Harry Bowes is not seeking re-election in Ward 5. Three candidates are seeking the seat.

The slate of candidates, to date, includes:

## MAYOR

Don Barker, Wayne Emmerson and Sue Sherban (incumbent)

## WARD 1

Ken Ferdinands (incumbent) and Gary Rhinelander

## WARD 2

Phil Bannon (incumbent) and Jim

## Priebe

### WARD 3

Sophie Angelis, Hugo Kroon and Clyde Smith (incumbent)

### WARD 4

Garth Bell, Susanne Hilton (incumbent) and Pam Mandich

### WARD 5

Richard Bartley, John Relph and Maureen Wood

### WARD 6

Rob Hargrave (incumbent)

For more election information, go to: [townofws.com/election](http://townofws.com/election). For more on the mayoral debate, go to: [whitchurchstouffville.ca](http://whitchurchstouffville.ca)

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