

Explore mail-in vote, candidate says

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Garry Rhinelander is looking forward to being a politician for the first time in his life.

He has declared his candidacy in Ward 1, in the northwest corner of Whitchurch-Stouffville, for the Nov. 13 municipal election.

He'll be up against the incumbent, Ken Ferdinands, who was acclaimed three years ago.

Mr. Rhinelander is disturbed by the low interest shown by Ward 1 residents in municipal elections. Only about a quarter of those eligible to vote did so in the last municipal election and that has to be changed, he said.

Alternate ways of voting, whether by mail-in or other means, have to be explored.

A more convenient way of voting would get more voters out, he believes.

As a local politician, you have to work as a part of council, Mr. Rhinelander noted, to bring forward the ideas and concerns of your constituents.

Ward 1 is the municipality's most rural ward, and includes the community of Vandorf, home to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Ward 1 extends from Hwy. 404 east to McCowan Road and from Vandorf Road north to Davis Drive in the northern part of the municipality.

Mr. Rhinelander has been a Whitchurch-Stouffville resident for

Election 2006

eight years, after moving from Newmarket.

He wants to have a say in shaping a vision for the municipality and the ward, especially with possible growth pressures coming from nearby Newmarket in future years, to represent his constituents.

INDUSTRIAL SPILLOVER

An industrial area is being developed across Hwy. 404 in Newmarket. Mr. Rhinelander anticipates that development eventually will spill over into his ward and politicians have to be ready to deal with it properly.

While in Newmarket, he was on the executive of the Eglinton Pony Club and the Toronto North Pony Club. Before that, while living in Ottawa, he was on the executive of local skating clubs. The 64-year-old is married to Nora and they have three grown children and two granddaughters.

Although he's never run for office, he's no stranger to politics. He's worked with candidates in provincial and federal elections.

Mr. Rhinelander is a computer security architect, helping clients secure large-scale communications and computer systems.

His working life has taken him from

peacekeeping to finance. He's done a stint as an administrative officer for the United Nations police forces in Cyprus in 1976, worked in the banking industry and financial sector in IT security, attended the Ontario Police College for senior officers in Ottawa and is a graduate of the Military Staff College in Toronto.

This varied background has given him a broad view of issues and good insights into budgeting and how to get proper returns on investments.

"You need to make sure you get your money's worth for the taxpayer," he said.

DEADLINE

TOMORROW

▶ **LAST CALL:** Friday is the last day candidates can declare or withdraw their candidacy.

▶ **BIG DAY:** Monday Nov. 13 is election day in municipalities across Ontario.

▶ **NEED MORE?** Go to townofws.com/election

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PEDESTRIAN & CYCLING MASTER PLAN STUDY

Planning for Tomorrow

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE NO. 2

The Regional Municipality of York is conducting a study to develop a Regional Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan. This study is investigating how York Region can work with local municipalities to connect local pedestrian and cycling systems into a regional-scale network, improve connections to transit nodes and encourage the combining of walking and cycling trips with public transit. Scheduled to be completed in the spring, this study will result in a Master Plan that will consist of proposed pedestrian and cycling policies and guidelines, recommendations to improve the pedestrian sidewalk system on regional roads and a recommended regional cycling network. This network is expected to consist of on-road bike lanes, paved shoulder bikeways, signed-only routes and off-road, multi-use trails.

The study was initiated in April and the first public consultation meeting was conducted at two locations in the Region on May 30th and 31st. The first meeting provided interested parties with the opportunity to review the draft goals and objectives of the study and to identify ideas that could improve conditions for walking and cycling in York Region.

The study is now entering its second phase which will focus on the development of an improved sidewalk network on regional roads and a formal regional cycling network. The study team has assembled information from a number of sources using route selection criteria developed in the first phase of the study, and has prepared a preliminary candidate route map to guide the field investigation of potential routes in October and November.

You are invited to attend our second Open House to receive an update on the status of this study and to provide your comments on the candidate route map and other information prepared as part of this study. The meeting will be held at two locations from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as follows:

Monday, October 2, 2006

Regional Administration Centre
17250 Yonge St., Newmarket
Seminar Room

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

Regional South Services Centre
50 High Tech Road,
Richmond Hill

York Region will also consult with local municipalities, conservation authorities, and other stakeholders. Except for personal information, all comments received will be on public record.

Should you have any questions or comments, you may contact the following project representatives:

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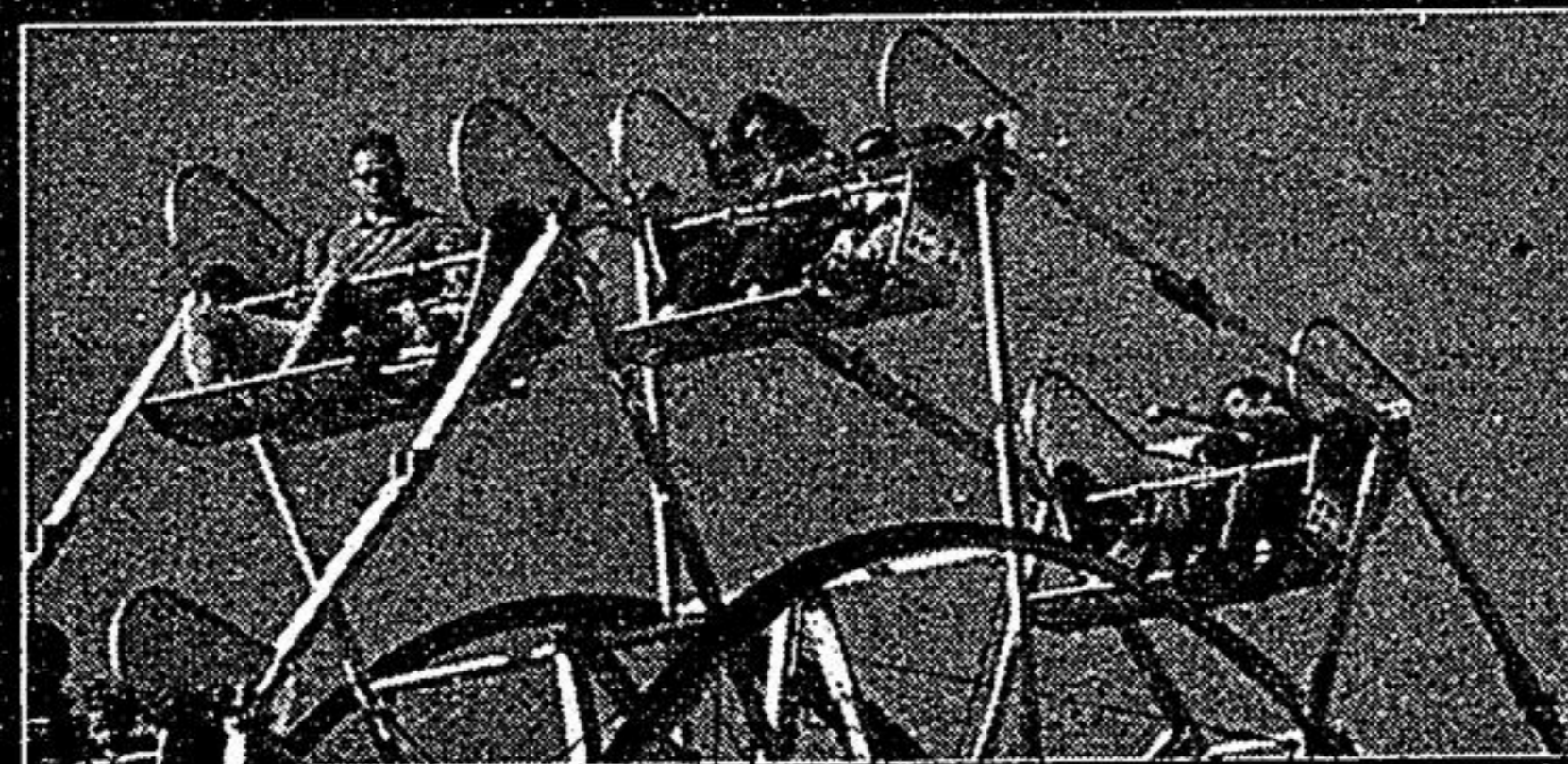
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