

OPINION

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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Editorial

Non-stop campaigning

The four-year terms for municipal politicians in Ontario were supposed to bring stability to councils.

It didn't take into account politicians leaving for other jobs, including those at upper levels of government. That's the nature of the beast.

The late Tony Roman and Eldred King left local councils for Parliament Hill and York Region's chair, respectively. Both were area mayors. Former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Fran Sainsbury took an unsuccessful run at a Liberal nomination.

Ward 2 Councillor Phil Bannon joined the club Saturday, earning the Conservative nomination for this fall's provincial election in the riding of Oak Ridges-Markham.

Mr. Bannon, who was elected to a second term as councillor in November, beat out three other candidates for the nomination. Former mayor Sue Sherban and two Markham residents were the competition in Canada's largest riding. The boundaries stretch across four of York Region's nine municipalities, including all of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The victory was even more impressive, considering Mr. Bannon was the last one into the race. In three weeks, he rallied enough troops to win the nomination on Saturday's second ballot. He's connected, concerned and has the time.

A former Unionville resident, the retired police officer lives in the politically active and affluent Ballantrae Country Club. Residents in the gated Hwy. 48 community, many of them newcomers to this town, have shown great interest in community activities, including politics.

They, and all other residents of Ward 2, may get a chance for political action beyond the Oct. 10 provincial election. If Mr. Bannon wins the seat, town councillors can appoint a new councillor for the remaining three years of the term or call a by-election.

That will be interesting, in the most politically active and diverse wards in the municipality. It includes tony rural subdivisions, farms and Musselman's Lake, an active community that remains in transition.

The issues are many, but headed by the environment, transportation and recreation.

Mr. Bannon knocked off incumbent councillor Mark Carroll four years ago and squeaked past political newcomer Justin Altmann last year.

Who could the candidates be, should a by-election be called?

Let the campaigning begin.

NEWS ITEM: EATING FROM 100-MILE RADIUS IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



Off The Top

with Jim Mason
Time to say thanks to The Nuge

Call him The Nuge. Everyone does. Call him a legend. The title fits. "The oldest living teacher in York Region", as his voice mail describes him, is hanging it up. Unwillingly, he would add with an exclamation point.

At 66, long after most teachers have moved on to new careers or full-time retirement, Wayne Nugent is retiring.

Serious illness saw to it.

Mr. Nugent collapsed outside his Woodbridge home in January. The sore back that hunched him over in the new year was diagnosed as advanced bone marrow cancer. He's been taking chemotherapy treatments ever since and been in hospital for most of it. A stem cell transplant is in the works.

Before that there's matter of closing a 42-year teaching career that started in his native Quebec and ends at Woodbridge College in Vaughan.

In the middle, 1976 to 1982, was his time coaching and teaching at Stouffville District Secondary School in his adopted home town. "His happiest years," Christina Baggs, one of his three daughters, said.

The mountain of man, who was scouted as a baseball and football player, lived for sport. He went to Woodbridge to head up the phys ed department and found the school's football program.

During summer vacations, he worked at Eddie Shack's golf course and on the set of Showdown, the hockey skills TV show. He was a founding member of the Stouffville Buttermakers slo-pitch team, whose Canada Day weekend tournament spawned the Strawberry Festival.

"People still come up to me and say he was their favourite teacher," Christina said. "He touched a lot of people."

Like the parents, whose son fell in with the wrong crowd, The Nuge stepped in, welcomed the boy to the football team and helped him earn a U.S. scholarship.

Former Buttermakers and SDSS Spartans are invited to a retirement party June 25 at La Primavera Banquet Hall in Woodbridge. Tickets are \$30 and available from Hela Risbridger at 905-851-2843 ext. 181 or Christina Baggs at 905-640-1630.

It's about time we all thanked The Nuge. Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

Letters to the Editor

Only in Stouffville does community show such involvement, support

A letter to the residents of Stouffville.
Our family moved to the Stouffville area two years ago after a long and sometimes painful search for the right home in a nice community.

From the moment we arrived here, our decision has been validated time and again by the helpful and friendly people we have met in our immediate neighbourhood, as customers in the local shops and through local sports organizations, namely the minor hockey association.

The purpose of this letter is to express gratitude on the part of the coaches and parents of the Clippers bantam A hockey team which will represent Stouffville in a series of exhibition matches in Austria and the Czech Republic this season.

To assist our cause, your local Canadian Tire store generously took out a full page ad in The Sun-Tribune to advertise our plant sale, from which all profits came to the team.

Paul Lamoureux, the store's owner, organized the flowers, their delivery, provided an area in which for us to operate and, when Sunday's weather turned against us, gave us some of the profits from his garden sales to help the team reach its goal.

Without his efforts our goal would never have been reached and for that we would like to thank him publicly.

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Stouffville Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space. Write: Letters to the Editor, 6290 Main St. Stouffville, L4A 1G7, e-mail jmason@yrmg.com or fax 905-640-8778

Similarly, another fundraiser several weeks ago was a great success, but only through the kind donations of many Whitchurch-Stouffville merchants and more than 200 local guests who generously bought those items, many paying above their intrinsic value, realizing the money was all going to the team.

Only in a town such as Stouffville could we find such an outpouring of community involvement.

We are pleased to boast to friends and acquaintances of Stouffville's accomplishments and want you to know how proud every citizen should be and how fortunate they should feel, as we do, to reside in this lovely community.

MARK MCMAHON
MANAGER, CLIPPERS BANTAM A
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE MINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION

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