

Sherban's defection doesn't bother Bannon

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

The rumours are true. Sue Sherban, who failed to earn the Progressive Conservative nomination in Oak Ridges-Markham, is working for Liberal candidate Dr. Helena Jaczek in the provincial election.

While she still supports PC leader John Tory, she said couldn't support Progressive Conservative candidate and Whitchurch-Stouffville deputy mayor Phil Bannon.

Mrs. Sherban, a former mayor and councillor, and Mr. Bannon were on town council together from 2003-06.

Mrs. Sherban said the decision wasn't an easy one.

"It has been a challenge. John Tory is aware of this. He knows my position," Mrs. Sherban said.

Mrs. Sherban lost the nomination to Mr. Bannon.

Following the nomination, Ms. Sherban said: "It was a great race. I am going to continue to work with the Conservatives."

Now with a change of heart, Mrs. Sherban has said she is helping Ms. Jaczek get her information out and letting people know Ms. Jaczek's record of integrity.

"I'm doing what I would

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do for any other candidate, to make sure that this municipality has good representation," Mrs. Sherban said, joking she would be a perfect candidate for the proposed system of mixed member proportional representation, where a voter could cast two ballots.

Mr. Bannon isn't too concerned his former Conservative rival is helping the other side.

"I don't think anything that Sue Sherban says or does will have a negative effect on my campaign," Mr. Bannon said. "She did fully announce that she wasn't a Liberal at the nomination meeting."

Adding that he didn't support Mrs. Sherban's municipal re-election campaign, which she ended up losing to Wayne Emmerson last year, Mr. Bannon added she doesn't have the support of the community.

"She was a mayor for one term. You can fool them once, but not twice," Mr. Bannon said.

The provincial election is Wednesday.

Conviction appealed

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

The man convicted of murdering the father of two Stouffville boys has launched an appeal of his conviction and sentence.

Rian Quincy Dix, now 21, of Newmarket was convicted in February of second-degree murder after fatally stabbing Michael Thornhill, 19, in a Newmarket Tim Hortons parking lot in 2004.

Mr. Dix was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for 12 years.

Mr. Thornhill's mother, Laurie Thornhill, said she is "disgusted" by the appeal.

"It shows me he can't take

his penalty," Ms. Thornhill said in an exclusive interview. "If he had remorse, he would serve his sentence."

Mr. Thornhill's family had moved to Newmarket after falling on hard times and was approved for social housing, living there only eight months before his murder.

Mr. Thornhill was the father of two boys. They now live with their mother in Stouffville.

A young offender, who is now 18, had previously pleaded guilty to manslaughter in connection with Mr. Thornhill's death.

He was sentenced to time served and released.

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