

ELECTION 2010: Smith seeks third term in Ward 3

Councillor proud of lower taxes, 'good debt'

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Keep finances in check, while expanding services.

Both are doable and key issues for this year's municipal election, according to Ward 3 Councillor Clyde Smith. He is seeking a third term so he can help make this happen.

"I believe I can continue to make a solid contribution to the very important work of expanding programs and services, while keeping our taxes in line," he said.

Ward 3, which is largely rural, now takes in the southwest corner of Whitchurch-Stouffville, including Gormley and Preston Lake.

Mr. Smith realizes residents are unhappy with recent tax increases, however, what homeowners don't realize is local

taxes are lower in Whitchurch-Stouffville than in some surrounding municipalities.

"When I became a councillor in 2003, our local tax rate was 20-per-cent lower, for a house of equal value, than Aurora and Newmarket. These cities were several years ahead of us in building the infrastructure needed to support their growing populations," he said. "Fast forward to 2010 and not only has our town not caught up (in residential taxes), but our tax rates are now more than 30-per-cent lower than Aurora and Newmarket. The challenge will be to continue to manage the business of the town in the financially responsible way," he said.

The town's debt is also expected to take centre stage during the election.

"Being a former licensed financial advisor, I can say that

there is good debt and bad debt. The debt the town has taken on is good debt in that it is taking out a 'mortgage' on assets with a long life ... that allows us to keep taxes lower for our current residents, while ensuring that our future residents will help to pay for facilities they will benefit from," he said.

Since there is very little residential growth in his ward, Mr. Smith said the main concern for his constituents this election will be ensuring tax rates remain in line and that quality services and programs relevant to rural residents be provided.

"I (also) want to support the financial success of our farming community and other rural enterprises," he said.

Mr. Smith and his family moved from Toronto to their current Ward 3 residence in 1996.

"We love being in a lake community," he said.

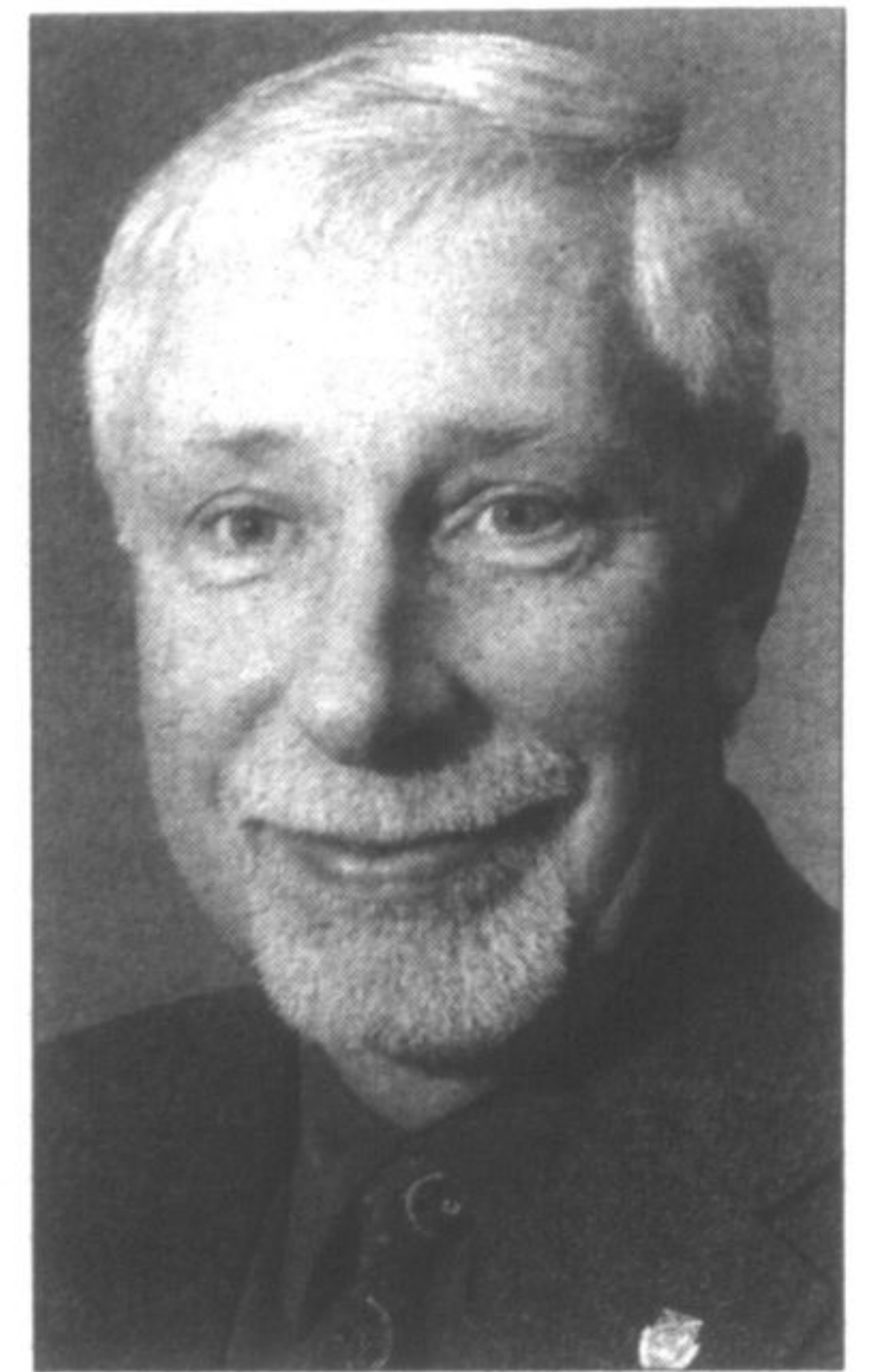
Since taking office in 2003, Mr. Smith, 59, has been on boards for the Lemonville Community Centre, Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Preston Lake North Shore Roads. Mr. Smith is also a town representative on the Stouffville Igoma Partnership Board, Rouge Park Alliance Board, Community Prayer Breakfast Planning Committee, Operations Centre Steering Committee, Bruce's Mill Master Plan Advisory Committee and Rouge Watershed Task Force.

Mr. Smith and his wife, Margie, have two daughters and two grandsons.

Also running for councillor of Ward 3 is Hugo T. Kroon.

The municipal election takes place on Oct. 25.

For more information, go to www.townofws.com/election.asp



CLYDE SMITH: Two-term councillor being challenged by Hugo T. Kroon in Oct. 25 municipal election.

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