

ELECTION 2010: Active volunteer former Ballantrae firefighter

# Political newcomer wants mayor's office

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Christine Vlachos considered running for mayor in 2006, but she didn't have the self-confidence to do it.

It's four years later and Ms Vlachos, 44, is not only running for mayor but is confident she can win.

"I never think that anything is unobtainable," Ms Vlachos said. "I kept seeing in the paper there were only two candidates running for mayor and I thought: 'that's crazy' so I decided to go for it."

She registered Sept. 3. Nominations closed yesterday.

Although Ms Vlachos has no previous political experience, she's not worried.

"I have no fear. I'm not in a popularity contest. I know what I have to offer and given the opportunity I will not disappoint," she said. "I love Stouffville and hopefully Stouffville will learn to love me back."

There are too many election issues to discuss, according to Ms



**CHRISTINE VLACHOS:** Musselman's Lake resident considered run at top job in 2006 election, too.

Vlachos, so she wants to continue researching them before she comes up with a priority list and way to resolve them.

One issue, however, she can't deny is big this election is development and how quickly it has happened.

"It's not communicated well, therefore people feel scared and overwhelmed," she said. "If it was

taken with a different approach, maybe people wouldn't have resisted."

Since moving to Musselman's Lake in 1999 with her two young daughters, Ms Vlachos has been an active member of the community, including volunteering with the Ballantrae Public School girls volleyball team and as a volunteer firefighter in Ballantrae.

Ms Vlachos remains involved with the Greenpeace tree planting program, the Heart and Stroke Big Bike Ride and the Motorfest car show.

Ms Vlachos has a full-time job as a project manager and designer for a wine cellar manufacturer in Mississauga, but she said that will not impede her ability to be mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, if elected.

"Mayor is my first work priority and I am willing to take a leave or relocate to another environment that will essentially have no impact on my abilities to perform as mayor," Ms Vlachos said in an interview.

Ms Vlachos was featured in The Sun-Tribune last March when she

competed to be the W Network's next home and garden expert.

She was one of about 200 people vying for recognition as the network's ultimate expert in shopping and money, beauty and style, food and nutrition, personal development, health and wellness or home and garden. Her expertise was in renovations.

*'(Our growth) was not communicated well, therefore people feel scared and overwhelmed. If it was taken with a different approach, maybe people wouldn't have resisted.'*

Also running for mayor is the incumbent Wayne Emmerson, former mayor and councillor Sue Sherban, who registered yesterday, and Justin Altmann.

The municipal election takes place Oct. 25.

## New rules for debate

Some of the rules are changing for an all-candidates meeting in Stouffville this month.

The Sun-Tribune and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library are hosting the event at Stouffville District Secondary School Sept. 23 at 7 p.m.

Instead of questioning candidates from microphones on the floor, residents are being asked to write their questions on cards and submit them at the event.

Cards will be sorted and grouped by library board volunteers. Questions will then be posed to the candidates by volunteer Stephen Sword.

"Although every effort to present as many questions as possible will be made, it may be that because of time constraints not all questions will be presented," librarian Catherine Sword said. "Citizens are encouraged to contact the candidates for further discussion if they need."

Cards are available on the library's website (www.whitchurch-library.on.ca). They will also be at the door on the evening of the event.

The candidates for mayor and council will give speeches to kick off the event.

For more information, call the library at 905-642-READ.

For a complete list of candidates, go to townofws.com

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