

ELECTION 2010: Council hopeful using Twitter, Facebook, blog

Growing debt, downtown bother Ward 5 candidate

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Fiscal responsibility, consistent representation and a revitalized downtown make up Iain Lovatt's Ward 5 campaign platform.

Since the 2006 election, Mr. Lovatt, 39, has attended a number of council meetings and helplessly watched as a variety of projects were approved, which have culminated into \$7 million of debt.

"I started to get a little concerned because I actually saw my taxes increase from when I moved from Markham," he said.

Another election issue for Mr. Lovatt is downtown Stouffville.

"We're not creating reasons for residents to actually go down there and I think council has a role in that," he said.

Mr. Lovatt also wants the town to do more for its younger residents.

"The future of Stouffville lies in the kids growing up and the services we offer our young kids. I think we can do better," the married father of three said. "I think probably the most tragic thing we did was not consult any of the kids who use the toboggan hill" before it was relocated.

Mr. Lovatt is also not happy with the skateboard park.

"The skateboard park we have doesn't say we appreciate our kids," he said. "It's used because it's the only place to skateboard in Stouffville."

Services offered also need to reflect today's Whitchurch-Stouffville.

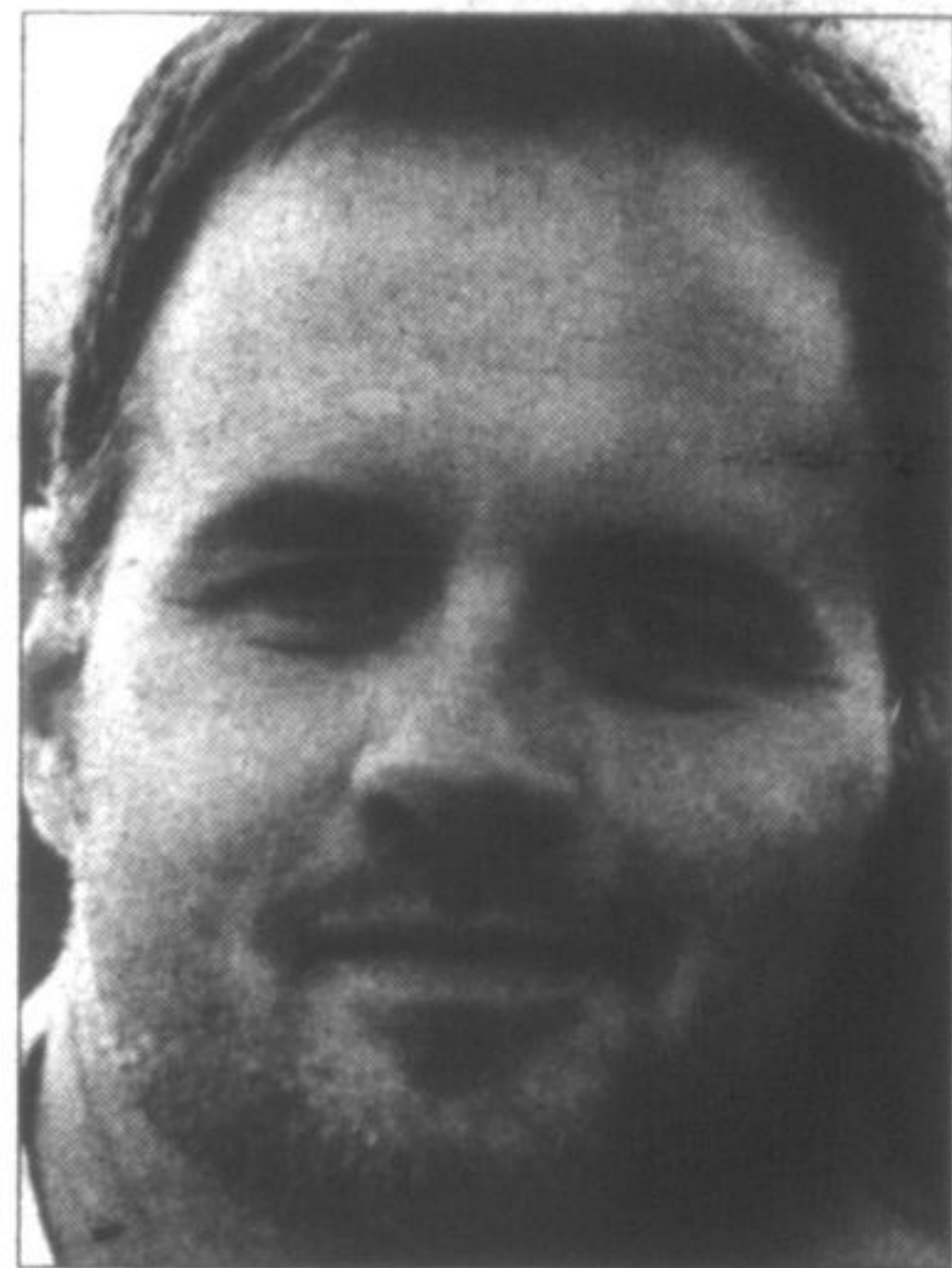
"As we are growing as a community and we're becoming a multicultural community, which is fantastic, I don't think we're matching the services we need to keep up," Mr. Lovatt said.

When it comes to Ward 5 issues, Mr. Lovatt wants a safe crosswalk to be created east of Tenth Line to north of Main Street.

"There are two elementary schools with students coming from Cam Fella (and) people attending EastRidge (Evangelical Missionary Church) from the west side and all are forced to cross without a safe crosswalk," Mr. Lovatt said.

Traffic flow at Tenth Line and Main Street must also be addressed.

"Something needs to happen with the double lights within 100 feet," he said. "That is just crazy. Lights aren't in sync and



IAIN LOVATT: Ward 5 candidate "appalled" by attendance figures for town councillors last term.

traffic is a bit of a nightmare."

For the past two years Mr. Lovatt has been a part of Harry Bowes Public School's council executive and last year he was involved with the youth basketball drop-in program at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Mr. Lovatt is also a worship leader at The Olive Branch ministry in Markham.

Although Mr. Lovatt's work schedule can accommodate 3 p.m. council meetings, if elected, he wants all council meetings to take place in the evening.

"If we do what we've always done, we'll get back the same thing," he said. "We need a council that is forward thinking, business-minded, takes responsibility (and) are present. I was appalled when I read" (about council's attendance records in The Sun-Tribune).

Mr. Lovatt is changing things up on the campaign trail. Not only will he be doing the traditional door knocking, but you can also find out about his platform through his blog, Facebook page or on Twitter.

"We're in an age when people don't necessarily want to be bothered with a door knock at dinner to find out what you stand for," he said.

Also running for Ward 5 councillor is Richard Bartley (incumbent) and Jim McCron.

The municipal election takes place Oct. 25.

Siblings running for council seats

From page 1.

her bid for a second term as mayor to Wayne Emmerson.

Mrs. Sherban works downtown as a project administrator for Cadillac Fairview and said back in March if elected as mayor, she would quit her job to serve Whitchurch-Stouffville full-time.

The other candidates running for mayor are Wayne Emmerson (incumbent), Justin Altman and Christine Vlachos.

There are races in all six wards, including a cross-border family connection. Tanis Hargrave, whose brother Rob is the Ward 6 councillor, registered yesterday in Ward 1.

For more information, go to townofws.com

WHO'S RUNNING

Declared candidates for councillor are:

Ward 1: Ken Ferdinands (incumbent), Tanis Hargrave

Ward 2: Phil Bannon (incumbent), Maurice Smith

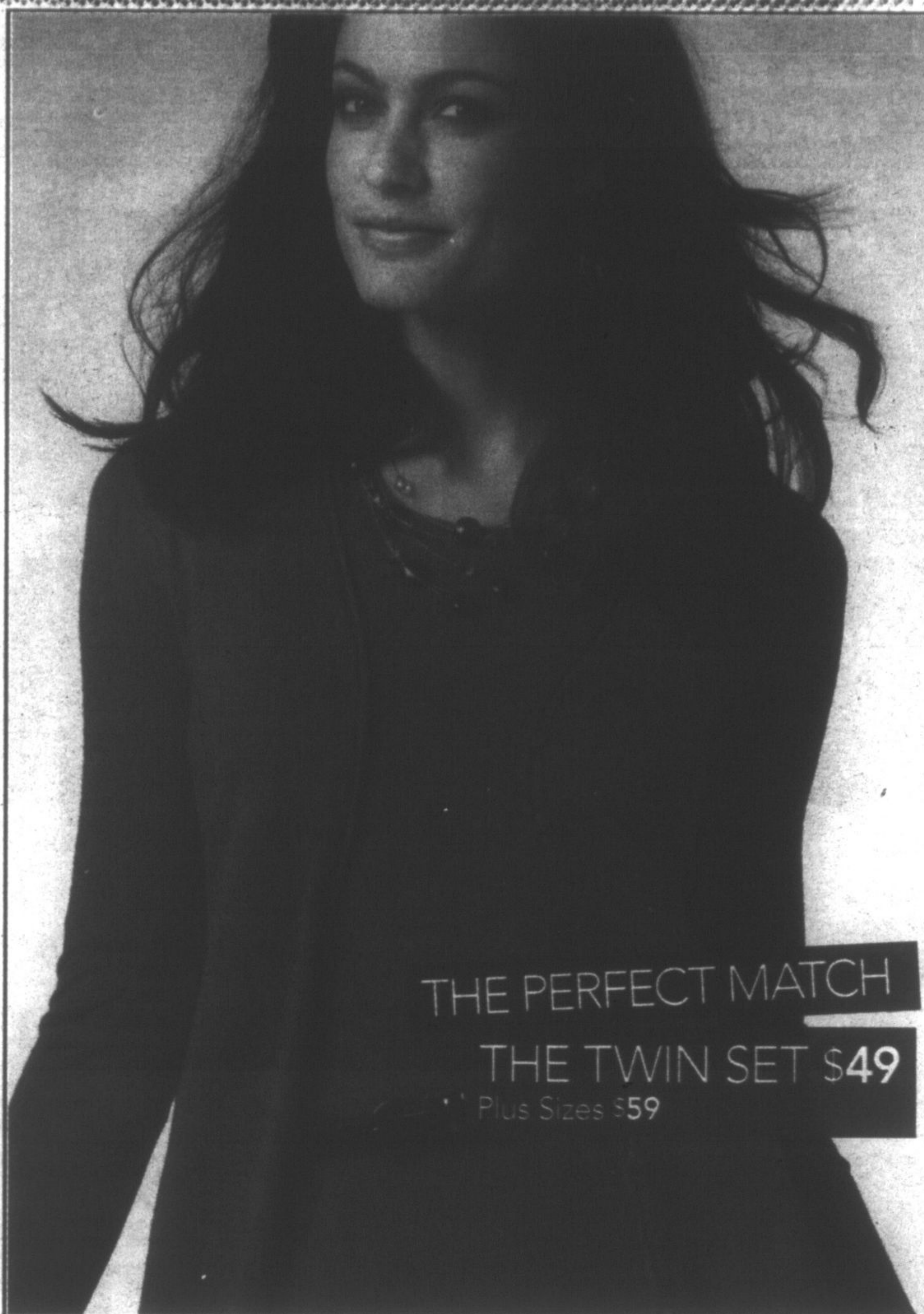
Ward 3: Hugo T. Kroon, Clyde Smith (incumbent)

Ward 4: Alexis K. Adams, Susanne Hilton (incumbent), Mary Anne Pride

Ward 5: Richard Bartley (incumbent), Jim McCron, Iain Lovatt

Ward 6: Joanne Iannuzzi, Rob Hargrave (incumbent)

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