

ELECTION 2010: Ward boundaries change, more places to vote

What's new? Plenty with voting process this time

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New wards. New technology and new identification requirements.

Before electors can vote for their candidate of choice, they will need to first figure out what ward they are in.

After having the same ward boundaries for almost 40 years, council approved their changes last year.

Since the 1990s, the majority of Whitchurch-Stouffville's development has taken place within wards 2, 5 and in particular, Ward 6. However, population growth within wards 1, 3 and 4 has remained consistent.

YOU'LL BE CARDED

The new boundaries break down as follows: the three more urban wards in the southeast corner of the municipality contain Wards 4, 5 and 6. Ward 4 is bordered by Hwy. 48, Vandorf Sideroad and the area south of Musselman's Lake to the town's southern border, just north of 19th Avenue and Ninth Line. Ward 4 also includes the area bordered by Main Street, the railway tracks and Bramble Crescent. Main Street divides the remaining section from Ninth Line to the York/Durham Line into wards 5 and 6.

Ward 1 blankets the northwest portion of the town from Davis Drive south to Vandorf Sideroad, extending easterly to McCowan Road in the south and Hwy. 48 in the north.

Musselman's Lake, Ballantrae and the surrounding area over to the York/Durham Line, makes up Ward 2.

The remainder of the town, between the southern border and Vandorf Sideroad, Hwy. 404 and Hwy. 48 is Ward 3.

On voting day, electors must present identification that includes their name, qualifying address and signature. Examples include an Ontario driver's licence, the plate portion of an Ontario motor vehicle permit, a cancelled personalized cheque, a mortgage/lease/rental agreement, insurance policy or loan documents from a financial institution.

If a voter does not have any of the qualifying documents, he or she can combine a variety of documents together. However, one piece of identification must contain the voter's name and signature, while the other must have the voter's name and address on it.

Possible combinations include a Canadian passport and the vehicle portion of an Ontario motor vehicle permit, a social insurance card and income tax assessment notice or an old age security card and a statement of old age security.

During the advanced polls, new technology will be utilized to increase voter turnout among the disabled.

The voter tabulation equipment consists of an optical scanner, touch screens, keyboards and headsets.

The equipment will not only assist resi-

dents with disabilities, but the optical scanner portion of the technology will enable residents to immediately correct invalid ballots.

Each voter receives the traditional paper ballot to cast their vote. Once a candidate has been selected, the elector places the ballot in a secrecy folder and returns it to an election official who feeds it into the optical scanner.

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The equipment counts and records all valid marks on the ballot, which is secured in a sealed ballot box.

Although the technology is aimed at the disabled, the town cannot restrict its use to only the disabled.

"Because we're introducing the new technology, we wanted to do it in a smaller, more controlled environment and then we can evaluate the technology," said Karen Ewart, deputy clerk for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In an effort to accommodate an increased population, the town will have 23 more polling booths, bringing the total up to 87. The

number of voting locations also increased - by six.

Voters must cast their ballot in their designated facility. Voter registration cards were sent out last week with that information, according to Ms Ewart.

Election day is Oct. 25.

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

Emmerson's brother running, too

Former Stouffville resident Blair Emmerson is running for councillor in Uxbridge.

Mr. Emmerson, who is a former Stouffville Legion Branch 459 member, is also the younger brother of Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

Mr. Emmerson's platform includes curbing vandalism by getting youth off the streets by organizing free sports. He wants more police presence on Uxbridge's roads to slow speeders and he hopes to attract industries by offering incentives to developers on site plans and planned growth.

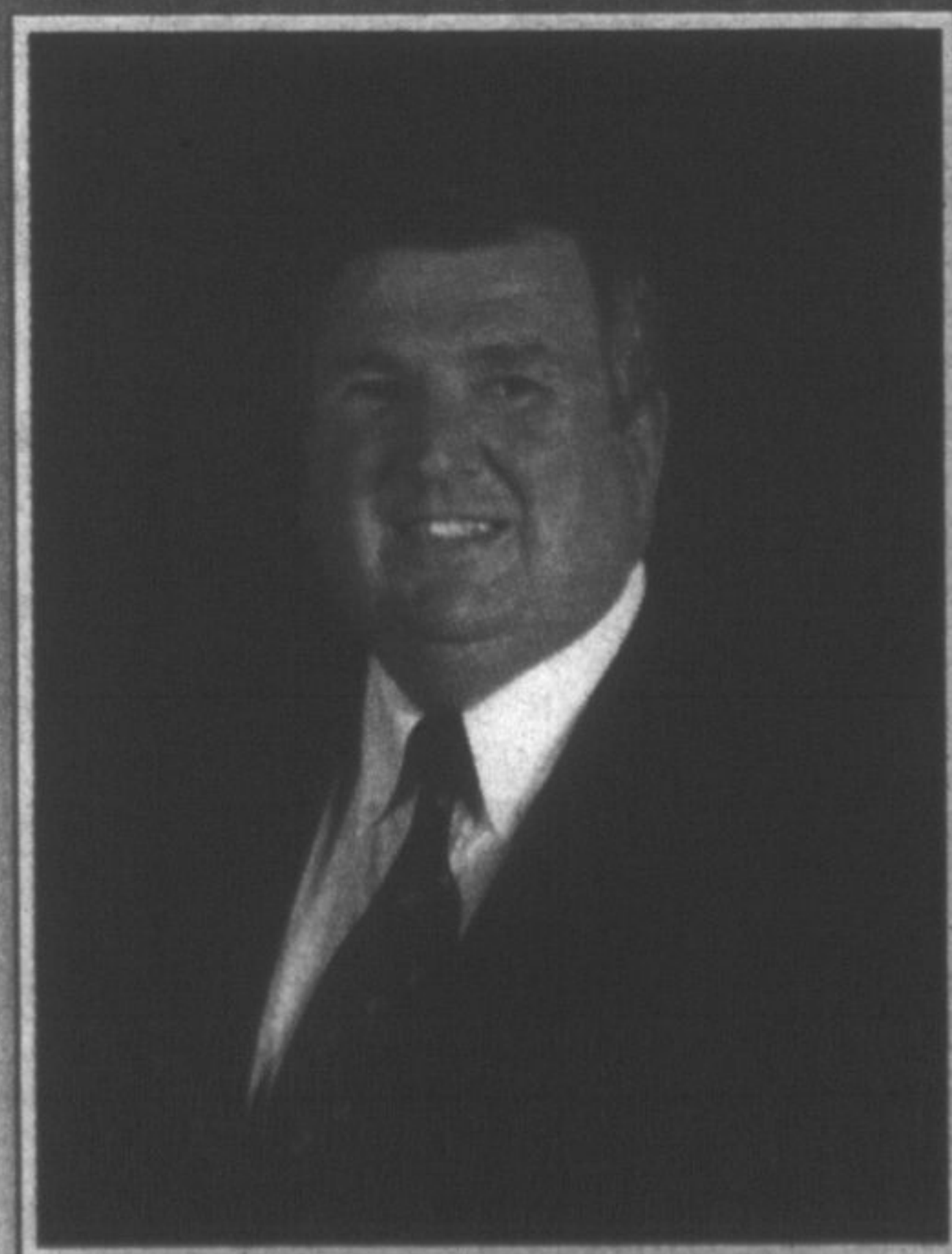
The Emmersons aren't the only siblings running.

Ward 6 Whitchurch-Stouffville councillor Rob Hargrave is seeking re-election. His sister, Tanis Hargrave, is taking her first run at politics, in Ward 1.

For more on the candidates, go our website, yorkregion.com

Re-Elect
MAYOR

Wayne Emmerson



EMMERSON

THE DECISION IS IN YOUR HANDS!

Leadership Matters. Experience Counts.

- 13 years as Mayor and CEO of Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Six years service as Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville ward councillor
- 13 years as member of York Regional Council

**On October 25th
VOTE WAYNE EMMERSON
FOR MAYOR**

*Whitchurch-Stouffville
I'm Listening . . .*

www.emmerson4mayor.ca