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Province offers more ways to vote

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
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Elections Ontario is giving you more ways to vote in the upcoming provincial election.

The agency made the changes in hopes of increasing voter turnout.

The 2007 provincial election saw a voter turnout of 52.8 per cent, an all-time low.

The changes offer Ontario voters more time, 29 days, and more ways to vote in the Oct. 6 election.

Elections Ontario will offer kits that will allow voters to cast their ballot in person at the local returning office or by mail a month prior to election day, rather than being restricted to 10 advanced poll days and election day.

Other changes include provisions allowing people who are unable to leave home to vote and assistive technology and devices such as braille numbers and magnifiers for people with special needs.

"In my own view, it's not Elections Ontario's business to campaign for voter turnout," University of Toronto political science professor Nelson Wiseman said. "It is just their job to facilitate."

The agency operates under the rules of the Elections Act, therefore, it would be the job of

See KLEES, page 9.

MOVING EVENT



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville IT staffers Dan Munns (left) and Mark DiFelice roll a server rack out of the Imperial Centre, the town's old home, yesterday. It was destined for the new civic centre, across the parking lot at 111 Sandiford Dr. The offices re-open Wednesday.

Drownings 'changed little'

'Can't legislate common sense':
 Musselman's Lake councillor

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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It appears as though the drownings of two teenage girls on Musselman's Lake July 19 did little to change how people take to the water at the Ninth Line lake.

Just two days after the bodies of Sabrina Alibhai, 15, and Gift Diji, 16, were discovered 30 metres from shore, people of all ages, including children, were back in the lake and on little rafts without life jackets, according to Councillor Phil Bannon, whose ward includes the lakeside community.

"You really wonder what it takes to have this message come to life for people," he said. "We can't legislate common sense and you don't want to legislate common sense."

York Regional Police received a call regarding missing swimmers at about 8:15 p.m. July 19.

The police marine unit and helicopter responded, along with York EMS and Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services.

Witnesses who saw the girls during the day, said they were using fence posts as makeshift paddles for their dingy and not wearing life jackets.

Area residents also said one of the girls was a strong swimmer, while the other was not.

The Musselman's Lake Residents Association executive held an emergency meeting Wednesday night — on a pontoon boat on the

See LIFEGUARDS, page 8.

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