

Want to get elected? We'll help 'write' your platform

Let's recap, shall we? Sorry, you won't be able to vote from your smartphone or land line a year from now, thanks to town council's decision of last week.

But, hopefully you'll kick it old school — maybe for the last time — take the time off work or from parenting or volunteering and get in line at a school or community centre, brandish a stubby pencil and perform your civic duty.

But, you're taking it further and running in the Oct. 27, 2014 election, eh? Here's one thing you should pledge to do once elected:

Spend the \$2 per household councillors have annually to spend on a ward newsletter. It's money very well spent.

Let your constituents know when a plaza, park or four-way stop has been approved for their hood. Tell them about all things municipal that affect their lives, including everything from bylaws to events.

Share with them who to contact in the case of emergency (fire, power outage, wild packs of dogs) and non-emergency (blue box non-pickup).

And who not to phone in the middle of the night or on Christmas Day



Off The Top
with Jim Mason

(mayor, councillor.)

Tell them how to use the roundabouts down the street.

Share cool information about your ward, especially for our many newcomers.

Be proud.

Our municipality does a fine job of informing residents on its website and the pages of newsprint it buys in the local media.

But that's bigger picture. You have a chance to go hyper-local, create community and be proactive in one of six

local wards.

In 30 years of living in Stouffville, I can't recall a ward newsletter being delivered to my mailbox or inbox. I am not alone.

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"At this time, no councillor newsletters have been distributed this year," always affable town spokesperson Maria Schembri told me in an e-mail this week. "However, a couple of councillors are currently working on one to distribute by the end of the year."

In 2012, councillors Clyde Smith and Ken Ferdinands issued a newsletter. Susanne Hilton and Phil Bannon "have also utilized this service," she said.

Your tax dollars at work. In this case, it would be money well spent.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune. Follow him on Twitter @stouffeditor

Water not taken for granted elsewhere

You wake up, take a hot shower and make some coffee. Want a glass of water? Turn the tap and out it pours. If you own a car, you wash it and if you have home, you water the lawn.

On the flip side, there are 780 million people around the world who do not have access to clean drinking water, according to Lindsay O'Connor, media manager for Emmanuel International Canada.

That number equals the combined populations of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Mexico and the United States, he said.

In recognition of two local charities trying to provide people in developing countries access to clean water — Emmanuel International Canada and Stouffville Igoma Partnership — the inaugural Whitchurch-Stouffville Clean Water Day takes place Oct. 30 in the town hall.

"A lot of people don't know they've got some great charities ... making Stouffville proud," Mr. O'Connor said.

"So many people can't live like us and so many Canadian NGOs (non-governmental organizations) make a difference," he said.

One out of every five deaths of children under the age of five is due to water-related disease, including trachoma, which can be transmitted by parasites in the eyes, according to Mr. O'Connor.

By constructing wells in developing countries, it not only provides clean water for an entire community, but it keeps women, the traditional purveyor of water, out of harm's way. Many a time, according to Mr. O'Connor, while fetching river water, people are attacked by the crocodiles in that water.

"It's just something we can't understand here or relate to," he said.

The event includes a reception with light refreshments and a formal presentation on what these organizations are doing. It starts at 6 p.m. and is free.

— Sandra Bolan

NEWS ONLINE

yorkregion.com

Opera Night

CONCERT

Sunday, October 27
7:15 - 9:00pm

Stouffville United Church
54 Church Street

For more information:
www.stouffvilleuc.ca

905 642 2545

FREE WILL OFFERING

FRED EAGLESMITH

Friday, Nov. 8, 8pm

STOUFFVILLE LEGION

"Fred Eaglesmith may be the most singularly voiced, prolific and rangy Canadian songwriter left after Stephen Jan Carrera." — The Globe and Mail

www.fredeaglesmith.com

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(including elections)

Mon. October 28 @ 7:30 pm

Lebovic Leisure Centre Meeting Room
(30 Burkholder St., Stouffville)

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

Election of Director Positions for:
President
Director at Large #1 • Director at Large #2

Members may submit nominations in writing up to 7 days prior to meeting
All potential nominees for Director positions are required to supply a confirmation of nomination in accordance with the constitution at the AGM

DISCOVER Arts program

York Region District School Board's

Secondary School

Programs Available at:

- The Specialized Arts Program is an intensive four-year program for artistically talented York Region students.
- Eight specialized arts credits offered as part of the high school curriculum.
- Grade 9 auditions and/or portfolio presentations are held in January.

Arts Program Includes:

- Unionville HS only
- Alexander Mackenzie HS and Unionville HS only
- Huron Heights SS only

Application deadlines vary by location. Please check school websites.

Specific program information, including information night dates and application deadlines, is posted at:
www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/specializedprograms

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