

ELECTION 2014: Bannon confirms he's in race

Emmerson challenges critics to run for mayor

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Mayor Wayne Emmerson believes his successor should come from the current council roster.

So far only one of them has declared his intention to fill the mayoral seat being vacated by Mr. Emmerson and that is the man who sits to his left — Phil Bannon.

"Yes, I am running for mayor," the Ward 2 councillor told The Sun-Tribune this week in between fielding phone calls from angry residents regarding the delayed recycling and green bin pick-up. (See story on page 16)

The Ballantrae resident has been Ward 2's councillor since 2003.

Since taking office, the retired Toronto police officer has founded a number of annual community events, including the Ballantrae Wine and Food Festival, Ballantrae Family Fireworks, Ballantrae Community Fall Fair and Whitchurch-Stouffville Winter Carnival.

Another councillor who has been rumoured to be taking a run at the mayor's job is the man who sits on Mr. Emmerson's other side at council — Richard Bartley.

"Chances are pretty good I will be seeking some seat," he told The Sun-Tribune this week when asked point-blank if his rumoured run for mayor was true.

"I certainly enjoyed my seven years so far. I think it made a difference in the community," he said.

Mr. Emmerson, who will seek the regional chairperson's post, expects four or five residents will also want to take his place. He says regular council meeting attendees Bob James, Arnold Neufeldt-Fast, Steve Pickard, Frank Van Ven and David Probert "should" run.

"I think these people have different ideas and I think they know more than me. I don't

believe they are happy with me. Some of them have sat at council (meetings) for years and some write lots of letters to the paper, so I think it is time for them to run so they can make (Whitchurch-Stouffville) a better place," Mr. Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune via e-mail this week.

Peter Carle, who declared his intention to run for mayor last summer, is going to think about it a little more before filing his nomination papers.

"If I do run, I'm going to run to win," he told The Sun-Tribune this week.

Among his chief considerations is his age. "Do I want to undertake something that will take me closer to 70," Mr. Carle, 62, said.

He also wants to check with his doctors "so I don't end up like the previous pope who had to resign".

Mr. Carle plans on making his final decision in March. He hopes by then more residents will have filed nomination papers for councillor.

"I'm one vote. Who are the six other councillors going to be?" he asked.

If the other nominees have different philosophies, Mr. Carle said he'll be the "dissenting vote all the time and what does that do? I can't imagine it will be any fun to preside over 6 to 1 votes or 5 to 2 votes".

As of yesterday morning, only Joanne Iannuzzi has registered. She is running in Ward 6.

In the 2010 municipal election, Mr. Emmerson defeated former mayor Sue Sherban, newcomer Christine Vlachos and Justin Altmann. That was Mr. Altmann's second attempt at a municipal seat. He lost to Mr. Bannon in the Ward 2 race in 2006.

The municipal election is Oct. 27.

For more information on the election, go to townofws.ca/en/town-hall/elections.asp

Iannuzzi running again in Ward 6

Joanne Iannuzzi was the first Whitchurch-Stouffville resident to file nomination papers for the Oct. 27 municipal election.

As of yesterday, she's the only one. She is running for councillor of Ward 6, in southeast Stouffville.

This will be her second attempt at winning the seat. Mrs. Iannuzzi was defeated in 2010 by incumbent Rob Hargrave.

"I want people to know I mean business. I want a chance to do this job," she said of her 9 a.m. filing Jan. 2.

Mrs. Iannuzzi, 59, will start her door-to-door campaign in April and be visible "just

like I will be if I'm elected", she said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's 2013 citizen of the year said traffic and pedestrian safety are the main issues concerning residents in her ward, as well as getting the south end of Memorial Park completed. She also promises to provide consistent representation and improve communication with residents.

Mrs. Iannuzzi owns Markham's Pure Design Marketing with her husband Perry and volunteers for a myriad of local and regional organizations, including Girl Guides, the Stouffville Royal Canadian Legion and York Regional Police.

In 2011, she founded the Stouffville Multicultural Association.

Mrs. Iannuzzi has no

intention of abandoning her volunteer posts, if elected.

"Otherwise it would be like ditching your friends or forgetting where you came from and I won't do that," she said.

If any of her affiliations cause a conflict of interest, she said she would deal with it then.

"I'm an honest person and straight shooter," she said.

As for her job, being self-employed, she said, gives her flexibility to be where she needs to be as a councillor.

Mrs. Iannuzzi and her husband have two children, Jennifer, 30, and Darryl, 26.

For more information, go to joanneiannuzzi.com and connect with her on Facebook at joanneiannuzzicampaign2014.

— Sandra Bolan

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