

Less growth, lower pay? I'll vote for that, candidates

Thirty-four weeks until Election Day. Monday, Oct. 27, more than 34,000 Whitchurch-Stouffville residents will have the opportunity to choose a mayor, six councillors and two school trustees.

Barring acclamations. If history repeats itself, less than 17,000 will take the time to cast ballots. Of these, a certain percentage are sure to be some of the same who, in the next four years will criticize and complain should key decisions not go their way. We get what we deserve.

If the vote count again comes in under a shameful 50 per cent, no one can honestly direct a jaundiced eye towards this newspaper. Editor Jim Mason and The Sun-Tribune's Community Links Panel have trumpeted the election refrain for several months in an effort to get people primed.

It's all part of the York Region Media Group's Big 50 campaign. With what success? Only time will tell.

In the area of local legislation, no one has a firmer finger on the pulse of municipal management better than town clerk Michele Kennedy.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Whatever the question, she has the answer. We should know, having tested her expertise on many occasions. Like last week. However, it was she who concluded the conversation with a request.

"If you're doing an article on the election," she said, "one piece of helpful information you could help disseminate involves voter identification. All electors must bring a piece of identification with them to the voting place. This includes their name and qualifying address. Producing a piece of identification is easy if you drive, but not easy if

you don't."

Ms Kennedy explained that during the last municipal election she was surprised by the number of people who had no identification whatsoever in their wallets or purses. She recommends an Ontario photo card from Service Ontario: ontario.ca/government/ontario-photo-card. The cost is \$35.

This advice, while not associated with the intent of this column, is important. However, my question to you, the voter, is: "What will you be voting for?" My list follows:

- That town growth continue but be scaled back from what we've recently experienced.
- That future subdivisions contain fewer huge homes and more sensible bungalows.
- That a toboggan slide be an integral part of every residential development.
- That tighter approval restrictions be placed on strip malls and greater emphasis exercised on filling downtown vacancies.
- That a four-year salary cap be imposed on department heads earning more than \$100,000 per year.
- That a \$2,000 annual salary increase be approved for our mayor and a \$2,000 decrease ratified for all

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councillors.

- That councillors should publish quarterly ward newsletters but not as a budgeted expense.
- That the current ward system be abolished.
- That a zero tax increase be the town's decree in each of the next four years.
- That Mayor Wayne Emmerson be selected chairman of the Region of York, a decision that would bring distinction to our town.
- That all town council meetings be held during evening hours.
- That a prayer, common to all religions, be determined by the Stouffville Ministerial Association and used at openings of all town council meetings.
- That a new seniors' centre be added to the indoor pool/public library complex.
- That the deteriorated cenotaph in Stouffville's Memorial Park, honoring town benefactor Arthur Lat-

cham, be refurbished.

- That York Regional Police utilize the convenience of new town quarters as a convenient means of deterring speeders on Hoover Park Drive and Millard Street.
 - That additional traffic lights be located where Main Street intersects Edward, Church and Baker streets.
 - That the town make the Millard Street reservoir more user friendly rather than a current runabout for uncontrolled canines.
 - That the conservation authority be requested to demolish the age-old Duffin Creek flood control dam and replace it with something attractive.
 - That in future, more consideration be given the spending of tax monies on electronic signboards that can't be fully appreciated unless observers drive three times around each block.
- Note: That these pre-election recommendations not (necessarily) be taken as planks in a personal pre-election platform.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

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