

'At the end of the race, one of us will be out of politics'

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help entice more businesses to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If that means changing zoning bylaws, then he'll look at that, he said.

"Decisions have to be made to improve the community," said Mr. Bartley, 53.

He has been involved with the Downtown Stouffville Working Group, which was initially the Stouffville BIA, for the past eight years.

He is proud to have approved the construction of a new fire hall on Weldon Road, as well as the neighbouring Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex.

He said buying the building that now houses the town hall was "the best financial decision" the municipality made.

"We went from renters to landlords ourselves. That was a great financial move," he said.

Some decisions Mr. Bartley admits were not handled as well as they could have been concern the needs of local seniors, including their desire for a new activities centre.

"We let our seniors down. I don't think we were listening to the seniors, their wants and needs. The seniors are the foundation and backbone of our community," he said.

Mr. Bartley has sat on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library board for the past eight years and is in favour of it and the leisure centre's expansion, which is slated to cost \$28 million. It would include a seniors centre.

But he wants to ensure the money is spent wisely.

If the project creates added debt to the local taxpayer, he'll "look long and hard at that".

"We can't be and do everything for everybody or the town will be broke," he said.

If elected, Mr. Bartley will keep his job at GM dealer Williamson Uxbridge. He's been there for 35 years.

Mr. Bartley has missed very few council meetings over the years, which are split between 3 and 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. He said

he would revisit those times, if councillors want to. But he already knows he will not support Saturday meetings because "it's convenient for three people".

"That's family time," he said.

Mr. Bartley also noted, Saturday council meetings would mean paying staff who need to be there time-and-a-half.

Mr. Bartley isn't sure social media will get more people out to vote, but he plans on becoming friends with it. He has a Facebook page and is working on figuring out Twitter.

"I will have to adjust with the times," he said.

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But when it comes to campaigning, Mr. Bartley is going old school — pounding the pavement.

"People are pretty brave behind their emails and computers. They say things to you they wouldn't say face-to-face," he said.

If elected, Mr. Bartley wants the mayor's golf committee to continue. He's been involved with it for almost 20 years.

He also wants to keep the annual New Year's Eve event in Memorial Park.

Also vying for the mayor's seat is Justin Altmann and fellow councillor Phil Bannon.

Mr. Bartley is not concerned about going up against another long-term councillor.

"Councillor Bannon is a good councillor and I feel I'm a good councillor and at the end of the race, one of us will be out of politics," he said.

If people are interested in joining Mr. Bartley's team, contact him at richardjbartley@gmail.com or 905-640-6584.

The municipal election takes place Oct. 27.

Other candidates officially running for office are: Justin Altmann and Phil Bannon (mayor); Ken Ferdinands (ward 1), Maurice Smith (ward 2); Hugo T. Kroon (ward 3); Rene de Vries (ward 4); Michael Humphreys, Tom Winters and Iain Lovatt (ward 5); Rob Hargrave and Joanne Iannuzzi (ward 6).

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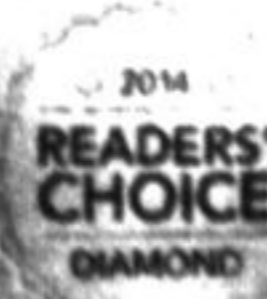
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