MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Town needs hospital, better town hall: mayoral hopeful

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A new town hall. Our very own hospital and more health care clinics, along with an indoor tennis facility and basketballs courts.

Those are facilities mayoral candidate Willie Reodica wants to bring to Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If elected, Reodica will encourage more large and small corporations to set up shop within the municipality, as well as negotiate with the provincial and federal governments for better offices.

The ReMax real estate agent said the current ServicesOntario location in the Imperial Centre is "insufficient" and violates the fire marshal's capacity levels.

When it comes to the hospital, the 62-year-old said "I don't think the Markham Stouffville Hospital can serve our local needs as a booming town".

He cited Uxbridge as having its own hospital. As of the 2006 census, Uxbridge's population was 19,196.

Reodica wants the hospital located on the southwest corner of Hwy. 48 and Stouffville Road.

Despite moving into a new town hall in 2011, Reodica wants a more state-of-the-art facility such as the one in Markham. He also wants it to be more front and centre within the municipality.

Also on the list of new construction is a Catholic high school and he wants to put a stop to portables.

"I can't understand why" they are constructed, in particular at St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School, he said. It opened in 2012 and had portables erected the following year.

When it comes to snow plow operators filling in the bottom of your driveway after you've cleared it, "I want to put a stop on that," he said, with a bylaw prohibiting it.

Reodica also wants the current blue boxes replaced with ones that are taller and have lids, to prevent materials from flying out of the box and littering streets and parks.

"It's an eyesore," he said.

Reodica is not a fan of the Oak Ridges Moraine Act because it "is killing the town" as you can't develop on the lands it protects, he said.

Like mayoral candidate Phil Bannon, Reodica would also consider Saturday council meetings as a way to encourage more residential participation.

WILLIE REODICA: Stouffville resident ran unsuccessfully twice in Scarborough ward.

But don't expect him to use Twitter and Facebook to garner your vote.

Reodica has a personal Facebook account he uses only to keep up with friends and family around the globe.

This is not Reodica's first foray into municipal politics. He ran in Scarborough's Ward 38 in 2003 and 2006. He lost both times to incumbent Glen DeBaeremaker.

The Filipino native moved to Canada in 1977. He became a real estate agent in 1981 and moved to Whitchurch-Stouffville in 2007.

"We live in a democratic country. I can live anywhere," he said of his decision to move here.

Reodica is a member of the Stouffville Lions and Royal Canadian Legion.

He is the founding director of the Filipino Canadian Real Estate Association and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Canada.

If elected, the father of an adult daughter said he will work full time as mayor and potentially part time as a real estate agent, but he won't deal with properties within the municipality, as it's a conflict of interest.

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

The election takes place Oct. 27.

For more information, go to www.townofws.ca/elections

SON DIED TRAGICALLY

In 2004, Reodica and his family were thrust into the media spotlight after his 17-year-old son was shot by a plain-clothed Toronto police officer.

On May 21, 2004 two plain-clothed officers responded to 911 calls regarding a fight between two groups of teenagers - one white, the other primarily Filipino - in the Bellamy Road and Lawrence Avenue east area.

The younger Reodica was allegedly holding a rock when one of the officers approached him. He was told to drop it.

A struggle ensued as one officer tried to arrest the teen.

Moments later, the second plain-clothed officer joined the skirmish. The teen broke free from and swung at them with a knife, according to testimony. An officer shot Reodica seconds later. He died May 24.

Due to conflicting witness reports, the SIU cleared the officer of any wrongdoing and said he acted in self-defense.

With files from Torstar News Media