

'Have a vote, make a choice!'

Get ready to vote again – just bring ID, town warns

BY SANDRA BOLAN
sbolan@yrmg.com

Are you tired of hearing political promises and campaign platforms yet?

Hopefully not, because the municipal election is three months away and the campaigning is just getting started.

"Have a vote, make a choice!" is Whitchurch-Stouffville's slogan this year and you'll soon start seeing it on a banner and swag.

"We're trying to stimulate interest in other ways," said Michele Kennedy, the municipality's clerk.

The last municipal election, held in 2010, had 44 per cent voter turnout.

"That was high in York Region, which is really sad," Kennedy said.

The Stouffville Sun-Tribune's Community Links panel, for more than a year now, has been working to get it up to 50 per cent.

"Any movement up versus down is good," Kennedy said.

As of this past February, Whitchurch-Stouffville had 34,570 eligible voters. Just over 17,000 people need to cast a ballot to hit the 50 per cent voter target.

In order to be eligible to vote in the municipal election, you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age and you or your

spouse must live, own or rent property within Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Owning a numbered company or corporation does not make you eligible to vote.

"By incorporating, you've given away that ability," Kennedy said.

To help residents cast their ballot for mayor, ward councillor and school board trustee, there will be five advanced voting days — Oct. 11, 18, 20, 21 and 22. Election day is Oct. 27.

When you go to vote, you must bring with you identification that shows your name and qualifying address.

Examples include a driver's licence, Ontario photo card, Ontario health card (green) and a mortgage statement.

During the 2010 municipal election, Kennedy said the number of people who walked around without any identification noting their address "totally blew me away".

Voter cards will be sent out in early October. But if you want to find out if you are on the list, go to voterlookup.ca

The voting lists for municipal, provincial and federal elections are separate, therefore, just because you were able to vote this month in the provincial election, does not mean your municipal information is up to date.

For more information, go to www.townof-ws.ca/elections

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