

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Living in ward important to Ward 4 hopeful

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Outgoing Mayor Wayne Emmerson predicted there would be 50 candidates running in October's municipal election.

He may not be that far off. With a few weeks left to register, there are to date 22 registered candidates - five for mayor and six for the seat in Ward 4.

Rick Upton is one of them.

"We're hoping to get a few more to get a baseball team," the 64-year-old first time council candidate joked.

Upton is not concerned by the number of candidates voters will be able to choose from because "when I review all these candidates, I don't view all of them as serious about being a councillor and that's unfortunate".

The Ward 4 resident said his address works in his favour.

"If you don't live in the ward, how can you understand what's happening in the ward? That's vitally important," he said.

The business owner also differentiates himself from the five



RICK UPTON: Home show organizer is one of six candidates seeking Ward 4 seat on town council.

other candidates - Rene de Vries, Holly Fullager, James Liaros, Jim Priebe and Mark Witte - by the number of years he spent in the corporate world as a senior vice-president operating an \$80 million organization.

"It's vital experience needed to be an effective councillor," he

said.

Instead of separating out the needs and wants of his ward and those of the entire municipality, Upton believes they are "intertwined".

"You can't say I want my ward to have it, you can't have it. We have to work together. It's all one," the married father of three and stepfather to one adult child said.

Upton has no previous political experience, but he is involved in a handful of local organizations, including the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce (director and vice-chairperson) and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association (coach and director).

He co-founded and is the director of the Imperial Networking Professionals Group. Upton was also one of the organizers of the Stouffville Home and Lifestyle Show earlier this year.

The grandfather of four is not on Twitter, but has a Facebook page and website. Face to face is how he wants to interact with his constituents.

"To me, it's important people

meet and know the person who will represent them in council," he said.

As the municipality grows, Upton wants to preserve its "small-town persona". However, he said there is a need for more YRT and GO transit services, as well as affordable housing, in particular apartments and condos.

He is in favour of the library/leisure centre expansion but noted "we're not offering the youth anything, which we have to put that in there".

Other candidates officially running for office are: Justin Altmann, Phil Bannon, Richard Bartley, Arnold Neufeldt-Fast and Willie Reodica (mayor); Ken Ferdinands (Ward 1); Maurice Smith, Adam Schickedanz (Ward 2); Hugo T. Kroon (Ward 3); Michael Humphreys, Iain Lovatt and Tom Winters (Ward 5); Rob Hargrave, Joanne Iannuzzi, Susie Nadarajah and Senthuran Paramasamy (Ward 6).

The election takes place Oct. 27.

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

SHARE YOUR ELECTION ISSUES TONIGHT

Restricting growth? Encouraging it? How about traffic and transit? Recreation? The environment? A movie theatre? Economic development?

What are your election issues, Whitchurch-Stouffville?

We want to know. Members of The Sun-Tribune's Community Links Panel will be on Main Street tonight asking residents for their top issues in the Oct. 27 municipal election.

We'll take the top issues to candidates at a series of ward meetings we are hosting across Whitchurch-Stouffville Tuesday nights beginning Sept. 16.

Main Street is closed in the downtown core tonight for Inside Whitchurch-Stouffville, which is a gathering of the municipality's not-for-profit organizations in one place, and Moonlight Madness.

Look for fire eaters and belly dancers, while Latin music fills the evening air during the themed shopping event.

Moonlight Madness runs from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Inside Whitchurch-Stouffville goes from 6:30 to 9:30. If it rains tonight, both events will be moved to the following day, same location and times.

For more information, call the town at 905-640-1900.

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Stock #	Year	Year	Model	Transmission	Colour	KM	List Price	Sale Price*
V8235 (DEMO)	2013	VW	Golf	6sp Auto	Blue Graphite	23,000	\$27,089	\$23,989
17245	2013	VW	Jetta TDI	6sp DSG Auto	Platinum Grey	26,700	\$27,089	\$23,595
X17393	2012	VW	Beetle	6sp Manual	Black	17,406	\$25,954	\$24,500
X17324	2013	BMW	328i	Automatic	Imperial Blue	39,768	\$37,719	\$36,595
17483	2011	VW	Tiguan	6sp Auto	Apline Grey	34,453	\$23,718	\$22,718
X17293	2011	Audi	S4	S-Tronic Auto	Ibis White	77,593	\$39,049	\$36,995

*All prices are subject to HST and Licensing.

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