

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION

# Ward 3 candidates no fans of online voting

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Two of three Ward 3 council candidates won't advocate for online voting and one does not believe there is much need for the food bank.

"(Online voting) does not improve voting turnout," Jim MacDonald told the approximately 40 people, including a number of mayoral and council candidates, during Tuesday night's ward meeting, hosted by The Sun-Tribune's Links panel.

MacDonald is going up against Hugo Kroon, who is making his third attempt at winning the ward seat, as well as another newcomer, Brad Whittick.

Whittick did not attend the meeting, due to a prior commitment, however, his wife, Angie, read his opening statement. She did not field questions.

MacDonald cited Internet security issues as the main reason why he would not push for online voting in the next municipal election.

Kroon concurred and stated meetings such as this one, is how the vote can be increased.

For a number of years, there have

been discussions about moving the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank out of a church basement on Ninth Line, which is in Ward 3 and into Stouffville proper.

Marion Wells, the food bank's co-ordinator, asked the candidates how they would support it.

### NEED FOR FOOD BANK?

"There's really not a whole lot of need for it," Kroon said, noting Whitchurch-Stouffville is relatively affluent as evidenced by it being open only once a week for a few hours.

But he also said "we will find (it) a better home."

MacDonald would locate it "wherever it makes the most sense".

MacDonald and Kroon differ when it comes to communicating with residents.

MacDonald would send out email flashes and utilize social media.

Kroon will knock on doors. He also noted the town's communication department provides updates.

However, if you have a problem, he will be available 24/7.

Kroon admitted when he first ran for council eight years ago, he would have been "woefully" unprepared, if he won.

He said it is not a part-time entry-level job and "my greatest fear for this town" is that someone with no experience will lead it.

"The town cannot wait for councillors to get up to speed. ... The curve may be steep but I'm 90 per cent there," he said.

MacDonald, who is running for the first time, noted his experience in finance and management as assets.

Whittick, via a speech read by his wife, said he would push for access to facilities within "reasonable proximity to our homes" and encourage more events in the ward.

He would also advocate for the development of the Gormley industrial lands, as would Kroon and MacDonald.

There are still a number of ward meetings taking place between now and election day:

Sept. 30 - Ward 6 - 19 on the Park

Oct. 7 - Ward 4 - 19 on the Park

Oct. 14 - Ward 2 - Ballantrae Community Centre

Oct. 21 - Ward 5 - 19 on the Park

The municipal election takes place Oct. 27.

For more information, go to [www.townofws.ca/elections](http://www.townofws.ca/elections)



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## CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON

Fred Robbins of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum shows off logging tools during Fall Forest Fest in the York Regional Forest Saturday.



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