



Talk Of The Town

Don't Just Vote, Vote Smart

By Ben Embiricos

It is important that on Oct. 25 we turn up and vote at the municipal election. But we need to do more than just vote if we want our voice to be heard on council. We also need to choose wisely. Just a little homework will help a lot.

First some practical points to make sure you are ready to vote. Since the last election in 2006 the ward boundaries have changed. If you visit www.election.stouffville.com you will find a map showing the new ward boundaries and you can also participate in an interactive forum with candidates and other voters. The town election web page at www.townofws.com/election.asp allows you to instantly check that you are registered to vote. Doing so may save you hassles at the polling station.

You can also check both web sites for other details such as the nearest polling station to you and details of advance polls. On election day the polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. so if you are a commuter who works long hours you may want to consider voting at the advance poll on Saturday Oct. 16.

All voters in Whitchurch-Stouffville will need to pick a councillor for their ward and a mayoral candidate. Once you have checked which ward you live in you can find profiles for many of the candidates in the pages of this newspaper or at our affiliate web site at www.election.stouffville.com. As additional profiles become available they will be posted on the site.

If you would like a reminder of some of the election issues there is an archive of my column from this newspaper at www.stouffville.com. All of the existing members of council are seeking re-election. If you want to improve

your knowledge of how they have performed since the last election in 2006 you could visit the Sun-Tribune web site at www.yorkregion.com/community/whitchurch-stouffville. The site has an archive of newspaper articles back to 2007.

You can use the names of councillors together with key words from issues important to you. For example if you are interested in the debate around balancing the reduction of traffic congestion with pedestrian safety you could type in key words such as "congestion", "stop signs" or "safe". That way you will get some feel for what has been said by councillors at town meetings. You can carry out similar searches on the town web site through the archive of council minutes although this is more time consuming.

If you visit the town library web site (www.whitchurch.library.on.ca) and click the Service/Resources tab you will find a link to a digitized record of local newspapers dating back to 1888. Although many of the candidates remind us that they have lived in Stouffville for a long time, to my knowledge none of them is old enough to have been involved in town politics before this date, so that should cover it.

Finally if a candidate knocks on your door I would recommend that you don't pretend that you have all gone out but instead speak to them. Even with all the information out there nothing beats a face-to-face discussion to help you make up your mind.

Turning up and voting is good but picking a candidate because you like their hair style or because you know someone who knows someone else who used to play hockey with them is not the best way to pick. So don't just vote, get informed, and vote smart.

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cbm Seeks Help For Pakistan

Donations for flood aid in Pakistan through cbm Canada will be matched dollar for dollar by the federal government until Oct. 3.

The government will match private donations to Canadian registered charities for Pakistan flood aid with no upper limit according to government house leader John Baird. Since the crisis began, cbm Canada has provided life-saving assistance to victims of the worst flooding to hit Pakistan in 80 years.

"Whenever there is an emergency, the specific needs of people with disabilities are overlooked," said cbm executive director Ed Epp. Now, and as the flood waters recede, cbm is

focusing its efforts on helping people with disabilities and those at risk of being disabled as a result of this disaster.

"Through the generosity of Canadian donors, cbm is restoring health to communities, preventing disabilities and rebuilding lives in the days and months to come," said Mr. Epp.

Stouffville-based cbm is a leading Christian international development organization which helps people trapped in the cycle of poverty and disability in the poorest countries of the world regardless of race, religion, age or gender.

For more information visit www.cbmcanada.org or call 905-640-6464.

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Your #1 Candidate for Ward 6 Councillor
Joanne IANNUZZI
www.joanneiannuzzi.com

On Monday October 25

VOTE FOR CHANGE IN WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE WARD TWO

VOTE MAURICE SMITH

It is Time to Bring a Dedicated Business Approach to the Business of Town Council

If you would like to help in my campaign to be the next Ward 2 Councillor please call 905-640-6004 or email: MAURICE@MAURICESMITH.CA