

Free Press Election Platform

FORMER MAYOR HITS CAMPAIGN TRAIL

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Wayne Emmerson, who served three terms as mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville before quitting in 2003, has announced his candidacy for the post in the upcoming election.

Mr. Emmerson, who underwent hip replacement surgery a year ago, said that health had been a major factor in his decision to leave local politics, but that he was now fit and ready to take on a new challenge. "I just want to get back and help the community like we did in the nine years we were there," said the Ballantrae resident, who also served two terms on council.

"The main thing is to get the council back working together. We need strong leadership. I want to get back to the region so our voice is heard again. It's really good to work with regional council because they are our big brothers." He also supports the idea of a community theatre.

"I would like to bring another option to council for a proper theatre; a brand new facility, along with a seniors' centre. I have a plan I would like to put in place." He wants to see a reduction in the number of stoplights on Main Street. "We need to straighten some of those roads, sooner rather than later," he noted.

He is a strong proponent of preserving Memorial Park. "It's a huge asset, given to us years and years ago. We should preserve and maintain it, and make it a centrepiece of our community."

The downtown core can survive and grow if merchants and residents pull together to sup-

port it, said Mr. Emmerson. He thinks the bypass will make a significant difference to traffic in town. "The bypass should have been in by now; we need to get that done." He is a firm believer in regional fire and dispatch, and wants to see one fire department for all of York Region.

"I think it's time to clean up Musselman's Lake and put money behind this. We need to control our planning and put more money into roads and sidewalks, but we also need keep operating costs down. The budget is a big process; we must make sure we get the biggest bang for our buck."

Mr. Emmerson's new motto is, "Whitchurch-Stouffville, I am listening." "We've got a great team behind us, and my family is very supportive. The team is ready to go."



Taking care of business

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

First time mayoral candidate Don Barker is a retired businessman who has lived in Stouffville for almost 30 years.

His biggest concerns include taxation levels, rapid growth without adequate infrastructure, and recycling. He thinks municipal taxes are too high, and wants an in-depth review of government revenue and expenditure. "My mother lives in Agincourt and has a house very similar to mine. She pays with-in five to 10 bucks the same as me, but I don't get nearly the services she gets."

He also plans to address the quality and quantity of town water and the state of the sewage system. "This includes looking into the problem of the big pipe heading through Markham into Toronto. Someone didn't think far enough down the road. They should have expected problems and I'm worried about developers suing the civic government for being irresponsible," he said.

"A lot of roads around the town are in dire need of repairs and it's been that way for years. I'm going to look into why previous councils approved such a massive program of new housing. We were labelled as slow growth by the province; I want to find out why the council strayed from that."

He believes the town needs to do more for young people. "One constant message (from youth) is that Stouffville is the most boring place you can live," he said. "That problem has to be solved."

Building code administration and bylaws that forbid overnight parking are other areas he wants to address. He also wants to establish a full green box recycling program for the community. Mr. Barker is unequivocal about the future of Memorial park. "It needs enhancements, but it's a landmark and it has to stay."

A businessman for 32 years, he worked for Bell Canada and also ran his own high technology business. "I know all about taking care of business," he said.

Adequate infrastructure, taxation levels and recycling. He thinks municipal taxes are too high, and wants an in-depth review of government revenue and expenditure.



Mayor Sherban sets sights on second term

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Mayor Sue Sherban said she will continue to work hard for the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville if she is elected to a second term.

Mrs. Sherban served two terms as Ward 6 councillor before being elected as mayor in 2003, and was also involved for many years as a volunteer and community activist. She sees properly managed, smart growth as the key to the community's future.

"My mandate is to ensure the growth that we are experiencing is smart growth, and that it is managed in the best interests of our citizens and businesses. I believe we're on the right track, but we must con-

tinue to be vigilant," she said.

"I was elected to help keep our taxes in line by broadening and strengthening our town's tax base. I am pleased to say that in 2005, Whitchurch-Stouffville lead the commercial and industrial growth increase for York Region by 15.9 per cent.

"During my term I have provided the vision and strong leadership necessary to promote the collaboration and teamwork needed to successfully address the impact of growth and ensure a vibrant community," said Mrs. Sherban.

Her goals for the future include improving emergency services; working with York Regional Police to have an officer in the community policing centre on a full time basis; reducing rush hour congestion and cutting down the amount of traffic in residential areas; continuing to work with conservation authorities to preserve the kettle lakes; expanding facilities for culture and sports, and implementing new recycling programs.

"I have always believed in open communication with the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and I will continue to be an open door mayor who listens to the community," she noted. "I said in my first campaign for mayor that I would focus on creating a stronger, more dynamic and forward-looking Whitchurch-Stouffville, and those goals are more important to me now than ever."

She is proud of the community she serves, said Mrs. Sherban, and she wants all residents, old and new, to share that pride.



RE-ELECT SUE SHERBAN FOR MAYOR



Mayor Sue Sherban

I'm off and running!

Dedicated to serving the residents...

As the municipal election draws near, I want to thank everyone for the support I have received as your Mayor over the past three years. The many accomplishments the community has enjoyed, and the challenges we've overcome would not have been possible without your confidence and participation.

Initiatives Accomplished:

- > Town's Newsletter
- > Mayor's Golf Challenge
- > Mayor's Youth Council
- > Annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Prayer Breakfast
- > Culture Arts & Heritage for W-S Committee supporting the Arts
- > Town Hall Pre-Budget Information Meetings
- > Fashion fundraiser in support of Markham Stouffville Hospital
- > First Tourism Guide 2006
- > Whitchurch-Stouffville enters 2006 Communities in Bloom
- > First Town Flower for Whitchurch-Stouffville vote as the 'DAY LILY'
- > Silver Jubilee Seniors supplied with computers and internet access
- > To of Whitchurch-Stouffville Character Community Committee

Again I'm running for Mayor...again I ask your support.

S.R. Sherban
I want to be your Mayor!

Working for a better community...

Approved by committee to re-elect Sue Sherban for Mayor