

Free Opinion

Free Opinion - Poll Dancing

Yes, folks, it's time for another voting extravaganza.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is growing like a weed, a fact attested to by the large number of contenders for the 2014 election. Five would-be mayors and 23 would-be councillors have bravely put their names forward as candidates for public office, and by the looks of things it's going to be quite a ride.

The urban core of Country Close to the City has morphed into a major suburban hub, with all the pros and cons that come with the territory. Among the positives are a more diverse population, bringing a wider variety of experiences from the cultural to the culinary.

The current council has established new walking trails, soccer fields, neighbourhood parks, bicycle paths and a skateboard park. It has drawn up plans for a major upgrade to the leisure centre which would include a long-overdue expansion of the library. We also have a second arena and SoccerCity, a year-round facility for a variety of sporting activities and a venue for indoor walkers and special events.

Inevitably, a burgeoning population means more vehicular traffic, which presents safety

hazards for walkers and cyclists in residential neighbourhoods. The new, wider intersection at Ninth Line at Main St. may improve traffic flow, but will be less pedestrian-friendly, especially if it is equipped with traffic signals that don't automatically allow people to cross on a green light, but require them to push a button and wait for a walk signal.

In effect, the new traffic signals have taken the right of way from pedestrians and given it to vehicles, a feature which may make sense on highways, but not in urban residential areas with higher foot traffic. There are also valid concerns about pedestrian safety at Mostar and Hoover Park Drive, where students can be seen trying to cross the four lane road to reach Oscar Peterson Public School without the benefit of a four-way stop sign.

And is it too much to hope that the new council will finally ensure that crossing Main Street is not a threat to life and limb by adding at least one crosswalk or set of traffic signals between Ninth Line and Mill Street?

Whatever issues concern you, now is the time to talk to the candidates who hope to represent you, before heading to the polling station on Oct. 27.

Free Thoughts

It's the scary season...



Free Musings

Free Laughs - Poll Position

Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.

Abraham Lincoln

Every election is determined by the people who show up.

Larry J. Sabato

In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy.

Matt Taibbi

Do the unexpected. Take 20 minutes out of your day, do what young people all over the world are dying to do: vote.

Rick Mercer

What [Sarah] Palin so beguilingly represented ... was a form of female power that was utterly digestible to those who had no intellectual or political use for actual women: feminism without the feminists.

Rebecca Traister

[Stump speeches] are to oratory what a stump is to a tree.

Jon Stewart

The only people truly bound by campaign promises are the voters who believe them.

Christopher Hitchens

Today women have the rights and equality our Victorian sisters could only dream of, and with those privileges comes the responsibility of standing up and being counted.

Sara Sheridan

What happened to the good old days when rich white men just bought their way into office?

Jennifer Crusie

When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without any fact-checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues.

Thomas L. Friedman

During a campaign the air is full of speeches - and vice versa.

Anon

People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war, or before an election.

Otto von Bismarck

Hell, I never vote for anybody. I always vote against.

W.C. Fields

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

George Jean Nathan

Do you ever get the feeling that the only reason we have elections is to find out if the polls were right?

Robert Orben

The most important political office is that of the private citizen.

Louis Brand

Vote for you? I'd rather vote for the Devil! But in case your friend is not running, may I count on your support?

Constituency member and Winston Churchill



With the revitalization of Downtown Stouffville a priority of many candidates in the October 27 municipal election, we might consider following Barrie, Ontario's lead. There, the summer months see temporary pedestrian walkways set up so that restaurants and cafes can provide outdoor patios on the sidewalk. Bruce Stapley photo

Stouffville Free Press

Whitchurch-Stouffville's independent community owned newspaper

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