

Rambin' Ruth



## Spooky Signs

By Ruth Le Blanc

Halloween is scary, but throw in an election and it gets downright spooky, since elections can bring out enough dirt to grow potatoes.

At times it feels like we are in the middle of a real life soap opera. The closer the date gets, the more ferocious the battle. A good rule of thumb is, "Don't believe everything you hear about anyone". There are exceptions, but generally the more colourful the character and cutthroat the comments, the more attention they get.

Election signs fill every country corner. On my corner alone there are at least a dozen lined up like ducks in a row. New faces wanting to replace old faces and all proclaiming they can do the best job.

Here at Kawartha Lakes the election is a rather lacklustre affair. Behind the scenes it may be different, but there is nothing that

catches the public eye.

When I spoke to one mayoralty candidate, I asked what their strategies were. Looking a little startled they replied that they did not, really have one and would be door knocking, attending all candidates' meetings and working hard to prove themselves. No hotdog picnics or gimmicks, no aggressive tactics and no devious plans to overthrow the competition.

Up in the land of bears and lakes elections seem to be a more casual affair from the ones taking place in neighbourhoods to the south.

Over the years my mom has reminisced about elections when she was a child in Nova Scotia, and voting day was a reason to celebrate. Candidates would arrive offering rides to the polling station; women voters received boxes of chocolates and men a shot of whiskey. By the time the night ended, bleary-eyed voters would happily compare notes on how

many drinks were consumed and how many chocolates devoured. All courtesy of candidates vying for their votes.

When I was in grade 5 at public school in Delhi, Ontario there was a class election. The kids running for class president, myself included, gave speeches and handed out candy.

My father was a high school teacher with five children and the pay was not what it is today. To say money was scarce would be an understatement. I remember shopping with my mom and picking out an inexpensive bag of candies that were terrible, but all we could afford.

The competition was fierce and the candy that won the election, beating out the boy who brought suckers, were rolls of Lifesavers, a treat reserved for Christmas stockings. It showed that people can be swayed just by a bigger treat or in the case of adults, a bigger

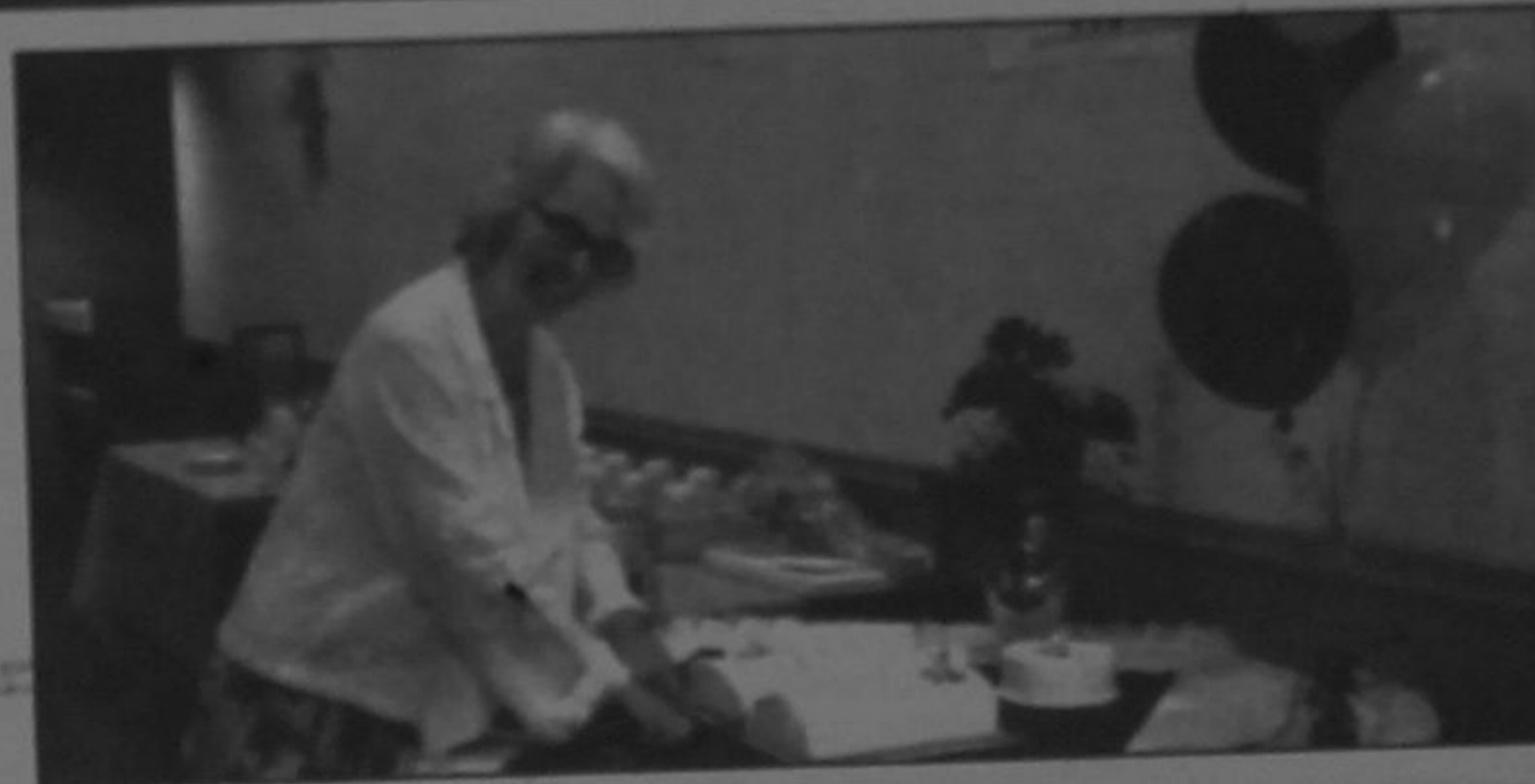
promise.

Pumpkins will decorate doorsteps and windows and ghost and goblins will lurk in the bushes, but don't be a sucker and be lured by what seems to be a lifesaver. Let the games begin... and may the best men and women win.

## Booking Off

Catherine Sword was honoured for 26 years of service to the Witchurch-Stouffville Library at a farewell tea Sept. 7. A large crowd of patrons, friends and colleagues were on hand to wish her well and to enjoy some delicious refreshments and a beautifully decorated cake marking her retirement.

Kate Gilderdale photo



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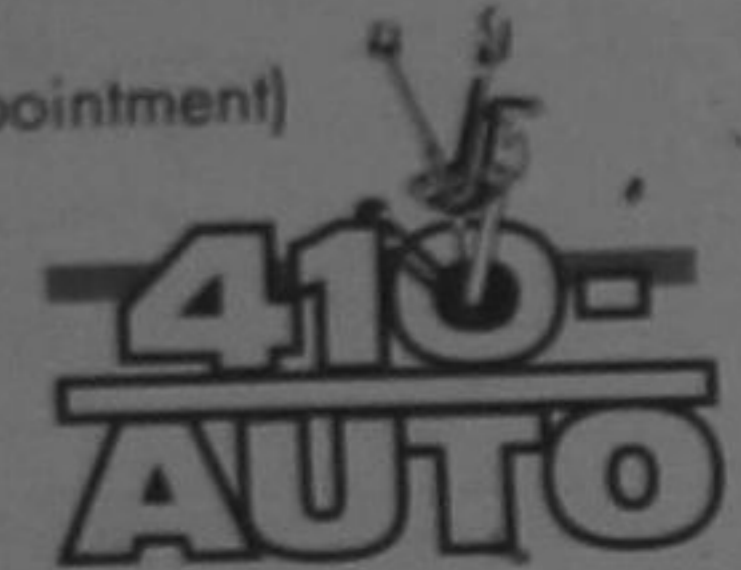
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ON OCTOBER 27 ELECT **JIM PRIEBE** WARD 4 COUNCILLOR  
 "Let's Build Community As Well As Houses."

### WE BUILD COMMUNITY BY:

- Embracing a new, multi-cultural Stouffville
- Serving the needs of our seniors
- Developing creative programming for our youth
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine
- Expanding the Library and increasing funding up to provincial standards
- Serving the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders
- Spending within our means

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR COMMUNITY IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

### HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

- Founder of our own WhiStle Radio (started in Ward 4, in my basement)
- Member of the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee
- President of the Stouffville Recycling Depot
- Beaver and Cub Scout Leader
- Organizer of numerous concerts, including the ArtsCan Benefit Series
- Happy Husband, Proud Dad & Step-Dad; Ward 4 Resident for over 15 years



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