

Negotiations, the environment, development and more at candidates meeting

continued from page 1
rec centre.

“There is a greater growth demand on our services,” he said, stating he would like to look into a public/private partnership in regards to servicing the 400 corridor. He said while there was a tax rate of 9% in 2006, 3.8% went to the town, 5.1% went to the province and Simcoe County. “Forty per cent went to police, fire and roads,” he said, adding “if you do not support the budget, you do not support a safe community.”

Councillor Gord Wauchope, running for the position of deputy mayor, told the crowd his goal when he first got on council was to bring a rec centre to Innisfil for all to enjoy. Committed to the town, he said he is approachable 24/7.

He said the town is facing a lot of issues and in regards to Barrie trying to take Innisfil over, he stated, “I sure as hell don’t want that”.

Wauchope stated council runs the town, not the developers. He said the town has a jewel in Lake Simcoe and that there were a lot of organizations “doing a lot of great thing” for the Lake. Wauchope said he has the expertise for the job, “not only for the town, but a strong voice for county council”.

Deputy Mayoral candidate Elmer Spring said he feels he has something to offer the town.

“I stand for honesty, integrity and I am dependable,” he said. He said he was a good businessman and the agriculture business was wonderful to be in.

“I believe in making my voice heard,” he said. Spring said he wants a safe community to live in and he was looking forward to serving the town.

Ward 3 candidate Ken Simpson said a 10% tax increase was not acceptable. “I would spend your tax dollars prudently,” he said. Simpson stated the 400 corridor would be the area for a skilled labour force and if elected, he would create an opportunity to change how business was done in Innisfil. He also stated St John’s Road needs sidewalks for the people of the community.

Ward 1 incumbent Paul Wardlaw stated there were several issues facing council the next term and “I believe I have the expertise for the negotiations.” Wardlaw said he wants to keep ward 1 in Innisfil. He stated he did not support the last two budgets and suggests that 95% of the casino revenue the Town receives from Georgian

Downs should go to paying off the MURF debt.

Ward 2 incumbent Bill Van Berkel stated he wants to help Innisfil meet three key challenges. Regarding development, he said the town wants, needs and deserves new residential communities that will fit with what the town already has. He said education about the Lake is “very important”.

“We need growth to help the tax base,” Van Berkel said. He said he does not agree with the current development proposals and the houses that do come in “need larger lot sizes”. He said he wants to ensure Innisfil stays Innisfil.

Ward 6 candidate Mike Long said from what he has gathered “council is not concerned about the people of ward 6”. He said although you can’t stop growth, it has to be done in a proper way. He also said money has to be spent for the youth of the community.

Ward 6 candidate Robin Crowder said she is running to provide a voice to her demographic. She said growth needs to be ecologically responsible and developers need to be “held accountable” for that.

“We need quality medical care in Alcona,” she said, as there are residents who do not have a family doctor. She would also like to promote culture in Innisfil.

Ward 3 candidate Russ Evans stated he would strongly pursue a youth centre for the kids. “The rec centre will only take care of 30-40% of the youth,” he said. Evans said young people need a place they can call their own under adult supervision. He said

environmentally friendly developers need to be brought into the community, and that there needs to be sidewalks on St. John’s Road.

Ward 3 candidate Janet Deacon said she would like to see employment in the 400 corridor and downtown Alcona. She is in favour of more sidewalks and streetlights in her ward and the “lakeshore needs a lot more TLC”.

Deacon said growth must be planned, balanced and properly maintained.

Ward 7 candidate Earl Hughes said he is running for councilor in his ward because there has to be a change.

“If you want someone to do the job for you, as a neighbour, as a friend, I’m your man,” he said. He said Innisfil is a big community, but the traffic concerns facing his ward and environmental issues facing the town need to be taken care of.

Ward 6 candidate Garin Kilpatrick said his three key issues were development, lake and the youth. Kilpatrick said the Lake needed to be promoted more. He said development was important because the youth in the town need jobs. “The youth needs something to do” he said, adding it will help them stay out of trouble. “The youth needs positive things to do and a positive environment to be in.”

Ward 4 candidate Peter Kmet said Innisfil was in a municipality of “unique communities”. He said he would keep growth strong and smart and when there was a need, he would act. Kmet stated property taxes were climbing at an

alarming rate and that “local government should be open and accessible for residents”.

Ward 5 incumbent Roy Bridge said in the past few years, just over \$1 million had been spent on the roads in his ward.

“If you call me, we (LSRCA) have a One Voice Action Plan for the Lake,” Bridge stated, adding the phosphorus loading in the Lake has gone from 125 tonnes to 65 – 75 tonnes. Bridge said in regards to jobs, the infrastructure has to be in place for the commercial and industrial area for the people in the town. He said he is proud of the job council has done in the past three years.

Ward 7 candidate Angela Cristini said she has been meeting with members of the community.

“Knowing your community makes you successful,” she said. She said Cookstown is in need of the by-pass and wants to make her community safer, especially when it comes to roads. “We are building a community, not just homes,” Cristini said.

Ward 7 incumbent Lynn Dollin said she enjoys living in a caring, grass roots community. She said years of hard work are starting to pay off in regards to the

Cookstown by-pass, water pipeline and the new library.

“I am not afraid to stand up for my residents,” she said.

Ward 4 candidate Nola Wale said she believes one person can and should make a difference in a community they live in. Outlining one of her goals as transportation, she said “residents cannot be expected to walk to the Innisfil Rec Centre, GO Station, and Big Bay Point.” She has planned out two routes, one to the north and one to the south. She said growth needs to be responsible and environmentally sensitive. “Other candidates give you promises, I give you my phone number,” she said.

Ward 3 incumbent Bill Pring said there needs to be more businesses to help ease the tax burden. “Innisfil has the lowest tax burden per household,” he said. Pring said he supports the Hewson’s Village project, which would bring 29,000 jobs to the area. He said he will out the pressure on to have sidewalks or paved shoulders on St John’s from the 7th – 8th Line.

Ward 1 candidate Richard Simpson said he decided to run because the time was right with all the changes coming to the town.

Simpson said with his business background and roots in the farming community, he would be good for ward 1.

“We can maintain our agricultural heritage along with the urban business growth coming in the future,” he said.

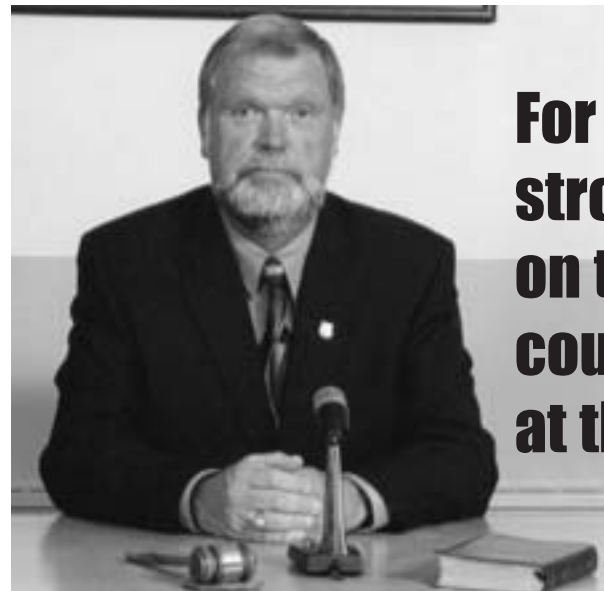
Ward 6 candidate Rod Boynton started his statement with the quote “Past behaviour is your best indicator of future performance.” He said he would like to see the competition of downtown Alcona. “I’m not against residential growth,” he said, but wants to “finish what was started”. Boynton said Innisfil needs to have permanent jobs and address the transit issue. He said people need to work together within the community.

Ward 5 candidate Dan Davidson said the rapid and excessive growth in Innisfil is “out of control, out of our hands, and out in left field”. He said healthy growth must mean sustainable growth. He said the double digit tax increase is a result of uncontrollable growth. He said on council, he would like to establish a Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee to help the transparency of council.

continued on page 17

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**Janet DEACON
Ward 3
“A VOICE THAT CARES”**

- Alcona cottager since birth.
- Resident since 1989.
- Girl Guide Leader, 1989-2001.
- Active member of Alcona Beach Club since 1989 (President for 7 years & once again Acting President).
- Assisted in establishing “The Kathe Jans Memorial Library”.
- Executive member Innisfil Community Events Corp.(4 years)

Be involved, work together, make this growing town a place to be proud of. Growth must be properly planned, balanced and maintained.

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