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October 10, 2022

VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 19


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## Town continues online voting, despite some voters receiving duplicate voting letters



GEORGINA MAYORAL CANDIDATES AT PAR DEBATE IN PEFFERLAW

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Town of Georgina has no plans to cancel online voting, despite some voters receiving duplicate Voter Information Letters (VIL).

According to the Town website, the letters were mailed out to all voters on September 26. Each letter contains a unique pin and a website address, allowing voters to vote online from October 8 to 23.

According to the Town's Clerk Division, a data

error is responsible for the foul-up.

"Municipalities receive their voter lists from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), and due to an issue in transferring the MPAC data to those lists, some Ontario residents, including some in Georgina, have received two VILs," the Town's statement, issued on October 7, reads.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





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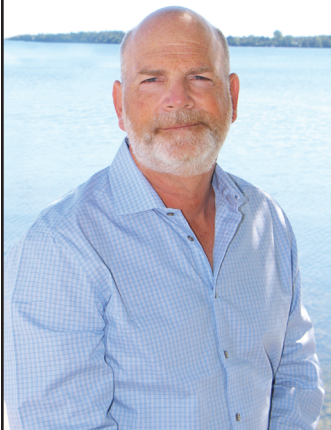
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## Why I am a candidate for Ward 4 Councillor

Many people, including my fellow candidates, have asked why I am running for Ward 4.

The short answer is, like many residents, I want to see real change. Case in point: The massive backlog of road repairs that must be addressed.

Roads, like Roanoke Rd, haven't been resurfaced for decades, while others, like Christidis Dr, remain unpaved.

Potholes are also an endemic problem. One resident on Dalton Rd, north of Lake Dr East, told me he bought his own asphalt and filled in a large pothole in front of his driveway, after repeated calls to the Town were ignored.

The sidewalks on Lake Dr East and High St. have also been neglected for years. Seniors with mobility issues told me they no longer walk in Jackson's Point because they're afraid of tripping.

Parents in new subdivisions worry about speeding motorists; they want more traffic lights, crosswalks and safer places for their kids to play.

The lack of affordable housing, especially for seniors, must be addressed. Why should seniors wait more than eight years for a subsidized apartment?

Jackson's Point Harbour, which could be a major tourist attraction and economic driver,

needs upgrading, with more visitor slips and better amenities.

All these fixes cost money, but I believe they can be tackled without raising taxes. We have to spend more wisely and work closely with other levels of government to leverage additional funding.

I want to thank all the residents of Ward 4 who took the time to talk to me about their concerns. We have a great community; let's make it better.

In 2018, voter turnout in Georgina was the lowest in York Region, just 26.7 per cent. It's time to turn that around. So make sure you exercise your democratic right and cast your vote on October 24.

*Mike Anderson, publisher*

## GEORGINA Post

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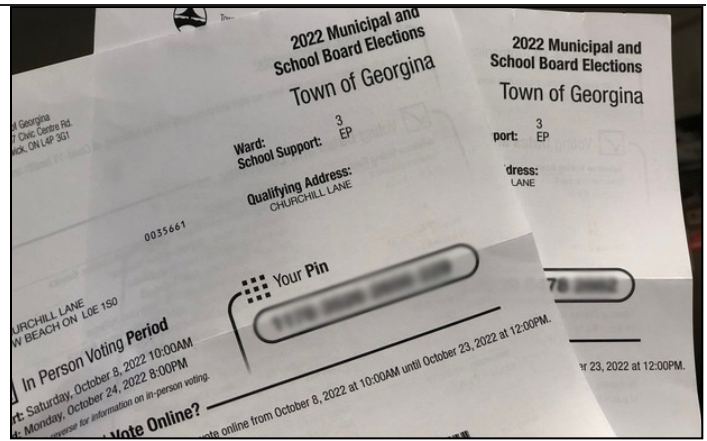
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VOTER INFORMATION LETTERS

#### VOTING CONT. FROM PAGE 1

“While this is not unique in the municipal election process, there may be a greater number of these occurrences in this election.”

The Post spoke with one voter who said he had received duplicate VILs, each with a different pin, even though he had lived in the same address for the past fifty years.

Still, it is impossible to determine how many voters are affected, as the Town has not provided information on how many duplicate letters were mailed out.

According to a Town spokesperson, the issue of duplicate VILs is impacting municipalities across the province, and the Town has no plans to terminate its online voting option.

“As in every municipal election, the Town has taken all steps available to it to cleanse the voter list,” said Tanya Thompson, the Town of Georgina’s Manager of Communications, in an email to the Post.

“In addition, the Town posts the statutory provisions for preventing corrupt practices and other offences, as prescribed by the Municipal Elections Act, at all

physical voting locations.”

“It is also displayed in declaration form when a voter votes online. The voter must agree to the requirements by accepting the statement of eligibility when voting online. As is always the case, the onus is on the voter to vote in accordance with the law. It is an offence under the Municipal Elections Act to vote more than once.”

Several municipalities, like Halton Hills, were made aware of the problem in mid-September, posting notices on their websites.

Still, it’s unclear why the Town waited until October 7 to post its notice, the day before online voting.

If you receive a duplicate VIL, The Town wants you to bring the letter that matches your identification to a poll to vote. According to the Town, you can dispose of the duplicate or post it, marked “Duplicate Return to Sender,” in any Canada Post mailbox. You can also bring it to the poll and give it to an election official.

For poll locations, visit: [www.georgina.ca/municipal-government/2022-election](http://www.georgina.ca/municipal-government/2022-election)

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PAR CANDIDATES' DEBATE AT LIONS HALL

## Councillor pay hike hot topic at candidates' debate

By MICHELLE POIRIER

The Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers (PAR) hosted a well-attended candidates' debate on October 6 at the Pefferlaw Lions Hall.

Karen Wolfe, a founding member of PAR, mediated the debate and introduced the mayoral candidates in attendance, including George Sheffield, Ralph Hirmann, Jeffrey Cathcart, Frank Sebo and incumbent Margaret Quirk.

Regional councillor candidates Naomi Davison and Dawn Zimmermann and the Ward 5 councillor candidates Lee Dale and Kelly McCarthy also participated in the debate.

While topics of concern for Ward 5, including the Pefferlaw Dam and allowing ATVs on Town roads, were covered, the recent councillor pay hike sparked the most debate, with Wolfe asking candidates if they would be willing to rescind the 33 per cent salary increase.

"The 33 per cent increase by council is disrespectful to all residents of Georgina, we've all struggled the last three years, and I will do everything possible to get rid of that for the people of Georgina," Cathcart said.

Hirmann added the salary increase is ridiculous and feels like a kick in the face after the shutdowns due to the pandemic.

"I will absolutely, when I become mayor, suggest that it's taken away. Also, the seven per cent given to the mayor will be given back to non-profitable organizations," he said.

Sheffield supported the raise but said it needed to be reduced.

"I plan to divide it over four years at 8.24 per cent, and then the following four years would be at 1.4 per cent locked after that," he said.

Sebo, who voted for the raise as the current Ward 4 councillor, said it was a difficult decision for Georgina Council to make. "Knowing that we were 42 per cent off the median mark, it was decided that 33 per cent was reasonable. Ward councillors will still be 9 per cent below the median," he said.

Mayor Quirk also defended the raise. She said council remuneration was decided through a review process using the salaries of the position in comparative municipalities. "Any review is for the next term of council. The increase is 33 per cent; it goes up from approximately \$36,000 to \$48,000 for council members. The total increase for all regional, mayor and council positions is \$82,000 annually. On the budget, that means a .085 increase," she said.

Zimmermann, countered Davison's support for the pay hike, saying she has never seen anybody, whether in public or private service, receive a 33 per cent raise. Dale said he would have voted against it, while McCarthy argued it was justified.

To read more about the PAR candidates' debate, visit [www.georginapost.com](http://www.georginapost.com).

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AFTERMATH OF HEAD-ON COLLISION ON BASELINE RD

## Collision renews calls for traffic safety upgrades

By MIKE ANDERSON

York Regional Police have charged the driver of a white cargo van with careless driving after he crossed the double yellow line on Baseline Rd. and collided head-on with a dump truck last month.

According to YRP, the accident occurred on September 20, just after 2:50 p.m., when students from nearby schools were walking home to the Jubilee subdivision at John Link Ave., prompting concerns that the force of the collision could have propelled one of the vehicles across the ditch and onto the sidewalk.

Despite the collision's severity, both drivers walked away from the accident, with the van driver being treated for minor injuries at Southlake.

The accident forced the closure of Baseline Rd. until 11 p.m., while York Region crews cleaned up spilled hydraulic oil and diesel fuel.

Eric Young, the owner of Sutton Fruit Market, was working in the back of his store when he heard the collision.

Young, one of the first on the scene, tried to pry the van driver out of the wreckage with a crowbar before Georgina Fire arrived.

"It was almost like a tin can got

smashed up. The whole front end was banged in. I'm surprised that he walked out alive," Young said.

The store's camera footage, which Young provided to police, clearly shows the van heading eastbound, crossing the centre line and hitting the dump truck, heading westbound, head-on.

"Looking back at the video, he was totally on the other side of the lane," he said.

According to Young, the dump truck driver steered away at the last second, to avoid hitting the driver's side of the van, which probably saved the man's life.

"He was super lucky," he said.

Young, who lives across the street in the subdivision, wants the Region to take more steps to improve road safety on Baseline Rd.

"It's unusual to see an accident like this. But it wouldn't surprise me if this happens again," he said.

"We've been here 27 years, and with the added housing, population and traffic, I've seen people overtake here, honking drivers for driving too slow."

"Many people are speeding through here; they're overtaking on a single lane in a school zone."

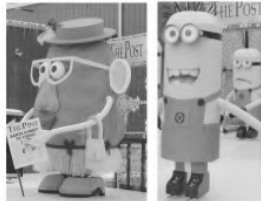
Baseline Rd., a regional road, is only two lanes and has several speed reductions, in close

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succession, heading eastbound into Sutton.

Motorists must reduce their speed from 80 km/h to 60 km/h before John Link Ave., then enter a Community Safety Zone (CSZ) by Sutton Public School, which is 40 km/h during school hours, reduced from 50 km/h.

Young says a quick fix might be to extend the distance between the speed zones, improve signage and increase fines.

But, like many residents in the subdivision, Young would also like a traffic light installed at John Link Ave.

According to York Region, measures are being taken to enhance safety on Baseline Rd., including installing a pedestrian crossover just east of John Link Ave., with construction to be completed this month.

"The pedestrian crossover should help enhance pedestrian connectivity, provide protected crossing opportunities and safety benefits for pedestrians crossing Baseline Rd.," said Nelson Costa, York Region's Manager of Corridor Control and Safety, in an email to the Post.

However, the Post interviewed one young mother at the pedestrian crossover, who complained that without a crossing guard, cars sometimes don't stop.

"I think it is great when the crossing guard is here to control the traffic," said Alana, who also lives in the subdivision.

"But when they're not here, one lane will stop, and the other will keep going. So a flashing light would be helpful."

Mayor Margaret Quirk has promised additional safety measures, including the installation of cameras.

"This is a well-travelled road both by motorists and pedestrians, many of which are children who attend school in the area," Mayor Quirk said in statement to the Post.

"Road safety is paramount on

all our roads, and we must do what we can to protect everyone's safety."

"I will continue to work with York Region to see what further safety enhancements can be explored, including additional speed enforcement by YRP and enforcement cameras."

York Region confirmed that two mobile cameras will be installed in the Spring of 2023, on Baseline Rd., east of John Link Ave.

But, the cameras are not permanent. After three months, they will be rotated to other locations.

Still, Costa says the cameras, called automated speed enforcement, will help reduce speeds.

"Results of the Automated Speed Enforcement program over the past two years show average compliance more than doubled, and average operating speeds decreased by 9 km/h," he said.

However, Costa says that the Region will not be installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Baseline Rd. and John Link Ave.

According to Costa, the traffic volume is less than the required minimum; John Link Ave. meets only 30 per cent of the minimum volume of traffic needed.

Also, Costa says the number of pedestrians observed crossing at the intersection of Baseline Rd. and John Link Ave. does not justify a traffic signal.

During the eight busiest hours of the day, only 19 pedestrians crossed the intersection, which, according to Costa, is less than the minimum requirement of 200 pedestrians for an intersection pedestrian signal.

Costa adds that there are sufficient gaps in traffic on Baseline Rd. to accommodate left-turning motorists.

He also says a three-year collision history review does not satisfy the provincial criteria for installing a traffic signal.

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ALANA BAKER TAKES PART IN SMUDGING CEREMONY

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Civic Centre

By MIKE ANDERSON

A beautiful fall day greeted a crowd of more than a hundred people who gathered to watch the flag of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation (CGIFN) raised at the Georgina Civic Centre, marking the second annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

The federal statutory holiday, established in 2021, honours Indigenous survivors and victims of Canada's residential school system, which operated from 1831 to 1996.

It also coincides with Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day to raise awareness of the generational impact of residential schools.

Mayor Margaret Quirk was joined by York-Simcoe's MP Scot Davidson and MPP Caroline Mulroney, Georgina Council, and several CGIFN members for the flag raising ceremony, which included smudging, tobacco offerings, and orange ribbons for people to take home.

Jared Big Canoe, a grandfather drummer from Georgina Island, started the event by singing the "Flag" and "Honour" songs.

"I'm going to sing the honour

song for all the survivors of residential schools and any other negative thing that comes from colonization," he said.

"But I just want to say as an Indigenous person here today that I have nothing but love in my heart, and I'm here to share, in a good way, so that we can create a better future for all our future generations."

Big Canoe was followed by Mackenzie Frosch, 22, who explained the significance of Orange Shirt Day.

"The Orange Shirt was chosen to represent this day as it is a reference to a real orange shirt that was taken away from a residential school survivor, Phyllis Jack Webstad," she said.

Webstad, a member of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, was given an orange shirt by her grandmother to wear for her first day at St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C. But, when she arrived, the shirt was taken from her.

"They stripped her and took away her clothes, including her new orange shirt. Phyllis's orange shirt is a symbol of the loss of worth, culture, identity, community, and even life that





JARED BIG CANOE

Indigenous children faced," she said.

In his remarks, MP Davidson emphasized the need for Canada to confront its past and acknowledge the wrongs done to Indigenous peoples.

"Residential schools and many other attempts to assimilate indigenous Canadians and divorce them from their culture marked a long and dark period in our country's history that caused significant generational harm and fractured the relationship with Canada's First Nations," Davidson said.

MPP Caroline Mulroney also acknowledged the importance of having a national day for reflection but added the work of reconciliation must go on year-round.

"The discovery of burial sites at residential schools was a reckoning for our nation. And we must acknowledge this stark and long chapter of our history today," Mulroney said.

"We also must work towards reconciliation. This is ongoing work that we all must do in our families, our communities, our schools, and at all levels of government."

Mayor Quirk said she was heartened to see more people attending the ceremony this year and stressed more work must be done to bring true reconciliation.

"The path of truth and reconciliation is a long one. We have a lot to do. We have a lot to learn," she said.

"We didn't learn the history of residential schools in our schools. And we should have. And that

needs to be changed. And it's days like today that get those conversations moving forward."

"To have true reconciliation, you have to have the truth. And part of that truth is acknowledging the history of residential schools and what colonization did to the Indigenous communities across Canada."

That sentiment was shared by Alana Barker, who acknowledges that previous generations of her family, who came mainly from England, Ireland and Wales, held negative views towards Indigenous peoples.

"Racism was endemic and in the air when I was growing up," she said. "So I'm interested in healing that as part of the following generations. We're here to heal, so I want to be part of that and to stand up."

"Just coming here, I thought, well, I'm wearing an orange shirt, is that enough? But this has changed me. And I was changed by the smudging."

Big Canoe was also happy to see that support is building for the holiday and what it represents.

"It's the sum of a lifelong dream to have my people acknowledged," he said.

"As a young kid, I'd walk through Canada and feel out of place. But now I feel we are being told to our faces that we belong here. And that feels great."

"It's also really important that Canadians, as a whole, take the time to educate themselves about what it all means and what's been going on. That means the world to me."

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#### COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Georgina-Brock Garden Club - Transformational Landscaping**, Mon, Oct 17, 7:30 pm, Pepperlaw Lions Hall. Catherine McNeely began transforming her lakeshore property from a run of the mill cottage lawn into a haven of biodiversity with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Be inspired by her story and passion. Also Silent Auction. Everyone welcome.

**Sutton Legion - Upcoming Friday Night Dinners:**  
**Octoberfest Dinner** - October 14, 6 p.m. Perogies, topped with bacon, onion, sour cream, and sausage. Cost \$15. Tickets at door.

**Open-Faced Roast Beef Sandwich** - October 28, 6 p.m. Open-faced hot roast beef sandwich, fries and vegetables. Cost \$15. Tickets at door.

**Sutton Legion - Poppy Breakfast** - Sunday, October 30, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost \$10. Tickets at door.

**Hospice Georgina Pancake & Family Fun Day with Georgina Firefighters**, Sat., October 22, 9 am to 1 pm. Pictures with Sparky! Children's story Telling! Kids craft table! Live Music! Meal includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausages and a drink. Early bird tickets are \$5.00 each. You can purchase tickets at [www.hospicegeorgina.com](http://www.hospicegeorgina.com). At the door: \$8 (cash or bank transfer only) Children 3 and under free! (The Link: 20849 Dalton Rd., Sutton)

**Meet & Greet:** Mike Anderson & Cynthia Cordova. Black River Coffee, Sun, Oct. 16, 10 am to 12 pm. (126 High St)

## AROUND TOWN



Chippewas of Georgina Island PowPow held at Sutton District HS, drew big crowds for the 2-day event on Sept 24 & 25. Photo: Tom Sandler



Dayna Reid performs at The Live Laugh Love Festival, which drew 2,000 fans at The Briars Resort, from Sept 30 to Oct 2.



Dragon boat picks up debris in the river and raises awareness in support of Friends of the Maskinonge River on Oct 1.



MARY HANDSON, PASIT BANJONGPANITH & LEE WHALEN

## Georgina Studio Tour draws art lovers from far and wide

By EWA CHWOJKO-SRAWLEY

The Georgina Studio Tour is fast becoming a major tourist attraction, drawing not only hundreds of local people but also visitors from Toronto, Thornhill, Aurora, and Uxbridge.

According to organizers, a revamped social media campaign contributed to this year's success.

"We increased our social media presence. We offer high quality works, and we have huge support from our community. It all translates to success," said Barbara Banfield, a potter and the acting Studio Tour Chair.

The 2-day event featured 12 new artists, many of whom recently moved to Georgina. They joined 32 returning artists at 30 studios located from Keswick to Udora.

Pasit Banjongpanith, a painter, moved here in 2020 and was excited to discover that Georgina has a well-established studio tour.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to show my art, and to meet so many of my new neighbours and fellow artists," he said.

Lee Whalen, a jewelry maker, moved to Georgina about the same time. She also saw it as an opportunity, after nearly two years of pandemic isolation, to meet other artists in the community.

"I joined the Studio Tour because I wanted to be a part of my new neighborhood," she said.

"I also appreciate that the organizers invited all the participating artists to meet before the Studio Tour. I found like-minded people. I now feel connected."

Both artists admit they did not expect to find such a big artist community here and were pleasantly surprised to see a steady stream of visitors over the weekend.

Sabrina Chianelli recently completed an art degree and decided to share her artwork in public. She was born in Georgina, and her family has lived here for generations.

No wonder most of her paintings depict the Georgina countryside: broad vistas of fields and meadows, and farms nestled in hedgerows.

"I want to show the beauty of my surroundings, to share the moments nature inspired me," she said.

If you missed this year's Studio Tour, the art works, studio locations, and artist profiles can be viewed at [www.GeorginaStudioTour.com](http://www.GeorginaStudioTour.com), or on Instagram @GeorginaStudioTour.



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## Ask The Expert

with Dylan Henderson



**Q: I am a unionized employee dealing with an employment matter, but I feel as though my union has not been representing me to the best of their ability. When should I consult an employment lawyer?**

In most unionized instances, you cannot simply hire your own lawyer and take your employer to court. This is because once registered with a union, the union itself becomes your exclusive bargaining agent. You are instead represented by an elected member of the union known as a representative. It is this representative, with the assistance from the union, who is to ensure that the employer is complying with the collective agreement.

Often, collective agreements outline the process that workers must follow and the admissibility of outside counsel if their employer is not complying with the terms. Accordingly, if you were to retain a lawyer it is likely your employer would not accept their jurisdiction to address your matter. However, under certain circumstances you may be able to pursue legal counsel outside of your union. The most prominent avenues recognized are a human rights complaint, a workplace health and safety issue, or a claim against the union for a breach of their duty of fair representation.

- Under Ontario's Human Rights Code (or Canadian Human Rights Act if you are a federal worker) employees are ensured equal rights and opportunities without discrimination. If your complaint is about a breach of your human rights, you may be able to bring an application to the Human Rights Tribunal;
- All workplaces within the province are under Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act. Pursuant to this legislation, you are entitled to procedures and protections from unsafe work. If your employer responds negatively because you acted on your rights, then you may be able to make a complaint at the Ontario Labour Relations Board. It should be noted, this process requires an election between the routes through your collective agreement's grievance arbitration or to the Ontario Labour Relations Board;
- Finally, if the union fails to act in a manner that is appropriate you may have a complaint for a breach of their duty of fair representation. Grounds for pursuing this complaint include allegations of bad-faith conduct, discrimination, or arbitrariness on the part of the union in its decision-making process.

These potential avenues can all lead to your ability to seek legal counsel outside of your union. To discuss the particulars of your case and whether an employment lawyer is able to assist, please contact our office.

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