

Fairfield tops Smith in Ward 6 Regional race

By DIANE HART
Special to the Beaver

Local councillor, Jim Smith, failed in his bid to move up to regional council in Ward 6 - due to a strong challenge from former school board trustee Ann Fairfield.

Monday, it was clear Smith had a battle on his hands. Fairfield was more than 100 votes ahead with just a quarter of the poll results counted during the early part of the evening. She continued to widen the gap throughout the evening, finally polling 700 votes more than Smith.

"No, I'm not surprised by the results," said Fairfield, entering the Town Hall after the votes were counted. "I'm pleased and happy to be back in the saddle."

With the withdrawal of regional councillor Bill Logan, the election reverted to a two-way match between the incumbent Ward 6 local councillor and the former

school board trustee. Both are very active in the town. Smith - who runs two private companies - was first elected as a local councillor in 1988 and acclaimed three years later.

Fairfield - the current executive director of Halton Helping Hands - served three terms on the Halton

Board of Education before retiring in 1985.

She said she was lured back into politics by what's known as the Grand Boulevard Plaza issue - a volatile debate over the fate of the commercial site, which has split the Iroquois Ridge community into two factions.

Even on election night, a voter raised the issue of the "plaza", stating to Fairfield that she didn't get her vote because of her stance on the issue.

"It (the plaza issue) is the most divisive, and it has to go away," commented Fairfield, outside the municipal building.

She believed her history of involvement in the town made the difference in the electoral victory. "There's a lot of caring and concern," she said.

Fairfield alluded to the campaign as "having some wrinkles," but when pressed, said only she would be pursuing some last minute attacks on the issues.

Fairfield said throughout the campaign, she was working against traditional voter apathy in municipal politics. Monday, she said that apathy won out again.

"This is the one level of government that is closest to the people, and here it is... another time that they just don't get it. I don't know what it takes for the community to

get involved in learning about what their taxes actually pay for," she said.

Jim Smith could not be reached for comment.

Farrow wins seat on local council in Ward 6 contest

By ROD JERRED
Oakville Beaver Staff

The next time someone says every vote counts, don't just shrug it off as political rhetoric.

With the close election race for Ward 6 local council, Monday night, which saw Mark Farrow defeat Kurt Franklin by a mere 50 votes.

"It was really good in pointing out how important every vote is," said Franklin, who was satisfied with the results, despite his loss.

Both candidates described the evenings election returns as a "rollercoaster ride."

While the contest for the local Ward 6 council seat started out as a four-man race between Farrow, Franklin, Tom Pope and Murray Walker, the early poll results

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Kevin Flynn returns as Ward 1 regional councillor

By DIANE HART
Special to the Beaver

Incumbent Kevin Flynn doesn't like the idea of party politics being introduced on a local level.

"I'd be interested to know just who is introducing party politics at the local level where it has no business," commented Flynn, who successfully held off a challenge for his Ward 1 regional seat from newcomer Cameron McDougall, during Monday's municipal election.

Flynn, 39, a self-employed businessman is now in his third term at the region. McDougall - a chartered financial analyst - was involved in the Riggs Road parkland issue.

Flynn's comments were directed at a last-minute letter inserted into his challenger's election pamphlet, referring to Flynn's prior history as an NDP candidate. Flynn ran unsuccessfully as an NDP candidate in provincial and federal elections in the early '80s.

"We try to keep party politics out of local politics. I work for such a range of people that I really don't know what importance should be placed on the fact I was a candidate for the NDP more than 10 years ago. I mean, the last political event I was at was a Liberal party fundraiser!" said Flynn, adding the tactic wouldn't have been used if provincial premier Bob Rae was popular or at the top of the polls.

The letter, signed only - a concerned neighbor - tied Flynn to the NDP. "... one of my neighbors showed me some news clippings and I read that Flynn didn't think socialism would kill us. That's a laugh because the NDP

have just about killed me and my company, and I'm committed not to support any of their runs for another office, even in this town..."

The letter continued, "...We can't afford to have any NDP or socialist running our Oakville because we can't afford them..."

Flynn said he had no problems with the content of the original McDougall election pamphlet, but the letter came at a particularly distressing time for the veteran councillor.

On Nov. 8th, Flynn's mother suffered a brain hemorrhage and he had to miss the all-candidates meeting scheduled for the following evening. He released a statement explaining his absence, however, the following day the letter appeared.

"I don't know who is responsible for this, but I took personal offense by it, and I don't think I'll ever forget it," he said.

While dealing with the death of his mother was an added strain, Flynn said the way people pulled together for him during the stressful period was gratifying.

"I remember sitting in her hospital room dealing with this and thinking, you know, two hours ago, I was worried about how many signs I had," he said.

Flynn said he was being criticized for his attendance at council meetings despite his 91% attendance record - a fact he checked after he learned of the rumors circulating about it.

"This is the second campaign like this for me, but I guess it just comes with the territory," he said.

McDougall could not be reached for comment.

A night for the incumbents in Halton Board of Education races

Lynne Clark returns in Ward 1

With her decisive victory in Ward 1, public school trustee incumbent Lynne Clark was handed a third term to represent her constituents.

"It was a good campaign," said Clark, who believed her edge lay in the fact that Ward 1 taxpayers supported the educational issues as opposed to the bottom line. Her opponent Ken Smith's approach was that the board be operated like a business "because it is big business."

"With Ward 1 constituents, the kids come first," said Clark who defeated Smith with 2,368 votes as compared to 1,253.

Clark was thankful to Smith for a clean campaign - "He was a gentleman throughout" - and her father for his "tireless" effort and "hours and hours of work" on her campaign.

Clark's first order of business will be to launch a newsletter and to attempt to reach members of her community, such as seniors, who don't have children in the school system.



Lynne Clark

"The people spoke," said Reinsborough, who fell 573 votes short of a victory in Ward 2. "I accept the results of the democratic process."

Reinsborough expressed concern that Docherty implement her strategies for open communication and access for the people.

"Above all and beyond all, the greatest reward will be that the children win - and the parents," said Reinsborough who expressed pride at the way she conducted her campaign. She said she wore out two-and-a-half pairs of shoes, passed out 9,000 flyers and worked very hard going door-to-door.

"People wanted to know what a trustee does. That's 60% of our taxes and people don't know what a trustee does," said Reinsborough.

Reinsborough, owner of her own computer training business, said there are many things to do in Ward 2.

"A lot of our schools need refurbishing and in some schools, students don't even have their own textbooks," she said. "I'm hoping parents and children win."

Reid said he didn't believe the election came down to a vote between the issue of quality education versus fiscal restraint. His mandate is to provide quality education while using current resources more wisely.

Reid's first order of business is to create support groups for himself, to allow him to do his job as trustee better and be an informed 'voter' at the board table, he said.

One of Reid's main areas of concern is a "fat administration" and he intends to bring forward information supporting his case.

The woman Reid defeated, teacher Barbara Cole, said she wished Reid "every success."

"I appreciate all of the support from the voters and my campaign workers," said Cole, an instructor with another board.

"I didn't run against anybody; I ran for something," said Cole. "Even though I lost the election I don't feel defeated."



Neil Reid

Siebert returns in Ward 4

When Penny Siebert turned on the television at a friend's place Monday night, she learned she was only nine votes ahead of challenger Brian Bell in a tight race for the Ward 4 public trustee seat. That small lead developed into 238 votes in her favor as she defeated Bell 1,143 to 905.

"It was a very close race, and I'm obviously really, really happy," says Siebert of her re-election to a second term to the Halton Board of Education. "I've worked really hard over the last three years, and I'm pleased my community recognized that, and supported me. I'm thankful to my supporters - I had a lot of people backing me."

Siebert, a mother of three with an extensive background in the financial field, has sat on 17 board committees, estimates she devotes between 25 and 35 hours a week on trustee work. She feels voters supported her because "they know what kind of worker I am. A lot of people have got to know me."

She said her network of supporters was "just a little broader" than her challenger's, who also had widespread community support.

"I enjoyed the campaign immensely," said Bell, adding he's covered at least 40 of the 45 polls in his door knocking. "The people here are very friendly, very positive... it was a great experience." Bell added he may run again in three years' time. "It is certainly a possibility. I was very much encouraged by the results."

An extra five or six votes per poll "would have made the difference," said Bell, father of four and a vice-principal in Peel. He felt voter turnout in the ward was "below what I would have expected."



Penny Siebert

Incumbent Marklew in Ward 5

Ward 5 public school trustee Debbie Marklew let out a loud whoop upon hearing she had won her bid for re-election as Ward 5 public school trustee Monday. She defeated challenger Janice Caster by approximately 300 votes, 1491 to 1193.

A close race saw both candidates running almost neck and neck until the last of the 64 polls came in to put Marklew in front.

Winning this election took "a lot of hard work and determination, and a lot of door knocking. It was a tough race."



Debbie Marklew

Marklew vowed to knock on every door in her ward.

And, instead of the implementation of Junior Kindergarten, busing distances and playground safety, Marklew found the big issues were violence and education.

"Violence in the school was the No. 1 issue when I was doing my door knocking, followed by how well we're preparing our kids for the workforce. The budget wasn't such a big issue."

Marklew, mother of two and a health care professional, expressed a need for renovations at White Oaks Secondary School during her campaign, and plans to continue monitoring the board's budget which she's done since 1984. She said once the Halton Board of Education is free of its Social Contract obligations and Market Value Assessment begins in 1996, there would be "walloping tax increases" unless the board's spending is controlled and cost-cutting measures taken. Marklew has never claimed "a dime" in expenses from the board for mileage and attending conferences since she was first elected as a trustee in 1991.

Marklew, currently Board Property Chair, plans to form an advisory group for the eight schools she represents. She is a former president of the Halton Council of Home and School Issues, and currently finance chair for the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations.

Challenger Janice Caster, in her first-time bid seeking a trustee seat, agreed it was a tight race, adding "I did fairly well."

"First thing I would like to say is to congratulate Debbie. We ran a tight race which went fairly well," said Caster, adding she will be a watchdog and may run again. "I will be watching to see what happens over the next term."

Lane victorious in Ward 6

Linda Lane romped over her opponent Richard Donafeld in her bid for re-election to a second term as public school trustee for Ward 6. Lane easily defeated Donafeld 1670 to 569.

First elected three years ago to the Halton Board of Education, Lane said she is "very pleased the voters continue to have confidence in me. I'm committed to working hard over the next term, and I plan to be active."

The great challenge facing the Halton Board of Education, said Lane, is to "continue providing the best relevant education in the most cost-effective manner."

She anticipates the Royal Commission on Learning's report, due in December, may have some impact on education

(See 'Board' page 4)



Linda Lane

Final results of Oakville Municipal Election Nov. 14th

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
Oakville Town Council	Oakville Town Council	Oakville Town Council	Oakville Town Council	Oakville Town Council	Oakville Town Council
Ralph Robinson*: 3,884 Cameron Roach 936	Linda Hardacre: 2,278 Ron Planche: 1,965 Theresa Rodrigues: 969	Tedd Smith*: 3,169 David Amato: 2,330	Mark Brown*: 1,936 Jim Stock: 1,051	Sean Weir*: acclaimed	Mark Farrow: 991 Kurt Franklin: 941 Thomas Pope: 630 Murray Walker: 616
Halton Regional Council	Halton Regional Council	Halton Regional Council	Halton Regional Council	Halton Regional Council	Halton Regional Council
Kevin Flynn*: 2,848 Cameron McDougall: 1,998	Kathy Graham: 2,851 John Hogg: 2,368	Keith Bird*: 3,053 John Graham: 1,456 Janet Mitchell: 1,109	Stephen Sparling*: acclaimed	Liz Behrens*: 2,211 Jim Richards: 1,638	Anne Fairfield: 1,897 Jim Smith: 1,235
Halton Board of Education	Halton Board of Education	Halton Board of Education	Halton Board of Education	Halton Board of Education	Halton Board of Education
Lynne Clark*: 2,368 Ken Smith: 1,253	Anise Docherty: 2,122 Arleen Reinsborough: 1,550	Neil Reid: 2,569 Barbara Cole: 1,860	Penny Siebert*: 1,143 Brian Bell: 905	Debbie Marklew*: 1,491 Janice Caster: 1,193	Linda Lane*: 1,670 Richard Donafeld: 569
Separate School Board	Separate School Board	Separate School Board	Separate School Board	Separate School Board	Separate School Board
Kevin O'Connor*: 645 Christopher Evans: 363	Ed Viana*: acclaimed	Alice Anne LeMay*: acclaimed	Margaret Jessup Natale: 501 Bryan McIntyre*: 481	Gerald O'Halloran*: 533 Bob Maki: 449	Don Schrenk*: acclaimed
MAYOR	Catholic School Board	Oakville Hydro Electric Commission (Four to be elected)		VOTER TURNOUT	
Ann Mulvale*: 18,003 Ed Schuermer: 8,743	French Language Trustee Gilbert McCraw*: acclaimed	Marshall Snowball*: 12,621 Jack Brewer*: 12,497 John Rankin*: 10,385	John Hinkley: 9,139 Bernie Haines: 8,748 Bruce Craig: 8,361 David Froom: 7,460	32%	

* denotes incumbent