

## Some newcomers to Council race wary about seeking vacancy

**By Brock Weir**

While familiar faces have expressed interest in going for the spot, many newcomers to this year's Council race have decided to sit back and focus on their own campaigns, leaving this opportunity to people with experience.

"I think we should appoint someone, a respected person in the community, that has no aspirations of running for Council on October 27," says first-time candidate Anthony Pullano. "At the end of the day, this is more of an administrative situation. I don't think a candidate should volunteer to be selected because it would be unfair to other candidates. Council should appoint someone neutral, someone respected by everyone, but someone who is definitely not running in October.

"A current candidate should not be selected [as it] would be an unfair disadvantage to others and it would show favouritism. Council would be saying, "this is the council candidate we would like to have on Council come October 27."

A similar view was put forward by candidate Arshad Desai.

"Given the timing right now, I think it is in the best interests of the Town if a Councillor who has previous experience goes forward with it," he says. "There are only a few meetings left and I think in those meetings it is imperative that somebody who joins the Council table, who has experience, is not going to delay matters, who has the foresight to see what is for the benefit of the Town."

Also focusing on October 27, is Alice Lalas, currently the youngest person vying for a Council position. This is her first election, she says, and she is focusing on her own platform.

"I would much prefer a democratic election in this situation, rather than leave it to the remaining Council members," she says. "I don't know if Evelyn Buck is going to question my sanity on that, but I have a lot of preparation to do and I would rather face the public with something a little stronger than what I would bring to the table by the end of July."

Bob Chapman, the newest registered candidate at press time, said somebody non-political, or not actively political would be the best solution. He said going with 2010's ninth, tenth and eleventh candidates is "definitely" the wrong way to go.

"They did not secure the seat," says Mr. Chapman. "The people obviously did not want the candidates. I know they are very close in terms of those 9, 10, and 11, but these people did not meet the cut-off and it would just keep lowering the bar.

"If they did go with the ninth candidate, so be it, but that was obviously a candidate who did not get re-elected. Some of the people who were on Council, but did not get the support from the voters to get in again, I would think if you didn't get the support to get in again, it is a little bit different from somebody who was just out there."