

# Five candidates contest two aldermanic positions

By PAUL KELLOGG

This Monday, between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m., voters will elect new municipal governments throughout Metro.

Excalibur despatched News editor Paul Kellogg to investigate the issues and the personalities in aldermanic races in and around the university, wards three and five.

For ward locations and voting instructions, see map this page.

## Ward five

**MICHAEL FOSTER** — "There are only two sources of revenue for the municipalities, through property taxes and grants from the provincial government," says Michael Foster, ward five candidate for alderman.

"But some residents of our ward have already lost their homes because of too high property taxes.

"We must push the provincial government for more money." "There's no way we should pass the buck to the taxpayer and make them pay more through higher property taxes," he says.

"The Tories are willing to give away most of our forests to Reed paper company but they don't bother to seriously tax them.

"Industry has got to start carrying its share of the provincial tax burden, they must be made to pay their way."

Among Foster's endorsers are the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the Metro Area Council of the NDP, and Odoardo Di Santo, NDP MPP for Downsview.

The other two candidates have charged him with bringing party politics into the municipal arena.

"Let's open our eyes," says Foster, "there's already party politics in this city. All levels of municipal government have been full of Tories for years. They all follow the party line, they're pro-development, they support business."

"Let's get it out in the open. We don't need this under the table stuff."

Like the other candidates, Foster puts as a priority improvement of TTC services in the area.

"Council must push to get subsidies from business and industry to make up the TTC's deficit rather than increasing fares again. Where would business and industry be if they didn't get the workers to work? They get the benefits from public transit, they should pay for it."

Among his other positions, Foster calls for improved rent review proceedings, — "recognizing," he says, "that having a place to live is a right, not a privilege," and opposition to further development of the Jane-Finch area.

**MARILYN MESHBERG** — "Ward five, with over 62,000 people, runs full time. Your alderman should be available, reaching out to the community, full time," according to Marilyn Meshberg.

Although the Jane-Finch area is outside her Ward, Meshberg considers the planned development on that corner as an issue in her campaign. "Development in the Jane-Finch area increases pressures on services in Ward five," she says. "We have insufficient recreation facilities already, and it's because we've been short-changed by Metro."

"We haven't gotten our share because no one has been screaming loud enough."

Meshberg takes issue with the location of many community services. They should be "moved from Yonge Street to Downsview," Meshberg says. "Let's put the services where the people are".

Meshberg takes issue with open party politics at the municipal level.

"I am in total disagreement with party politics in municipal elections" says Meshberg. "My accountability will be to the people of North York and not the party. I deal with property, recreation and sewers, and sewers don't belong to political parties."

Meshberg is a founding member of the Legal Aid Clinic in Down-

sview Library, is President of Tumpene Home and School Association, and Chairman of the North Region Family Service Association.

"Two years ago I ran for alderman and only lost to Bob Yuill by 400 votes," she said.

"Maybe that's why he decided to run for controller this time instead of alderman. I made it quite clear the day after the last election that I would be back this election".

**JOEL SNITMAN** — "One issue that I see is that there is no issue," was the response of Ward 5 aldermanic candidate Joel Snitman when asked to identify the key issues in this year's municipal election.

"Most people who I talk with knocking on doors, seem to be happy living here. They want little things improved, but there are no major questions," he said.

"Residents are concerned about increasing tax rates," he added "North York is one of the most populous areas in Ontario, and we contribute a lot through provincial income and sales taxes.

"We should get an increased grant from the province rather than having to raise property taxes."

Snitman disagrees with the approach of his opponent, Mike Foster, who says the province should increase taxes on industries and commercial enterprises as an alternative to cutting back on social services.

"He's (Foster) been on this kick from the beginning of the campaign," said Snitman. "It sounds to me like he's talking about the New Democratic Party's corporate rip-off thing again."

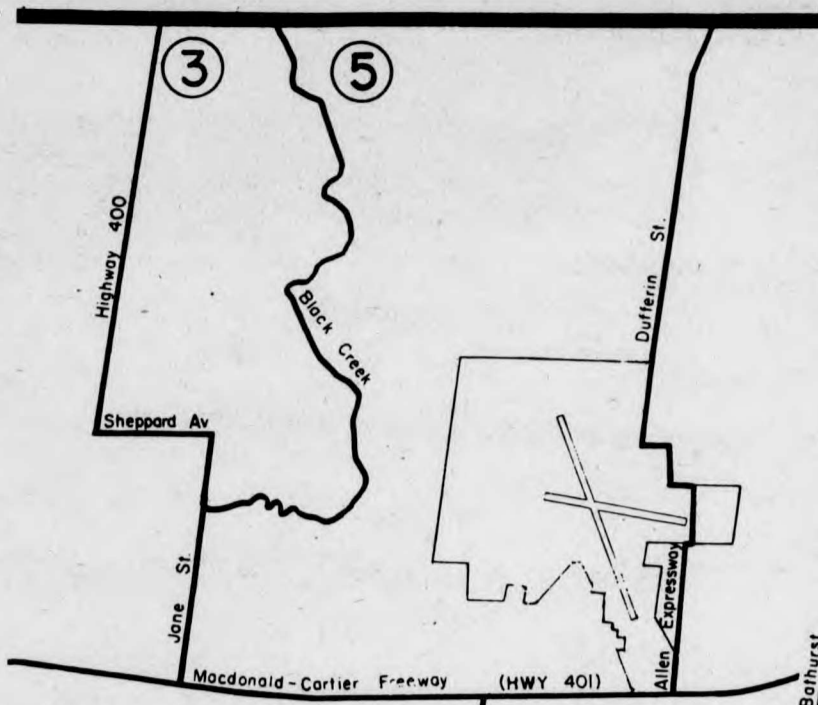
"Corporations are taxed very highly now", says Snitman.

## Ward three

**BEN BELLANTONE** — It's the second time around for Ben Bellantone. Coming in second to outgoing alderman Katie Hayhurst in 1974, Bellantone is once again going after the alderman's seat.

A central part of his campaign, like that of his opponent Pat O'Neill (who is endorsed by Hayhurst) is the issue of development in the Jane-Finch area.

"My opposition is dead against the development," says Bellan-



Above are the locations of Wards three and five. Residence students can vote between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. in Vanier Junior Common Room. If your name has been left off the voters list, you can sign an affidavit at the polling station that you are over 18, are a Canadian citizen, and have lived in the borough of North York between September 7 and October 12. For further information, contact the North York municipal office, 225-4611.

tone. "This is a bit ridiculous".

"I don't believe in fighting with developers. That's expensive land and it's going to be developed one way or another. Aldermen should sit down with the developers and compromise, get as many concessions as possible.

"I think developers are reasonable people. I haven't spoken with them but perhaps they would be willing to give us more services than we're getting now."

According to Bellantone, "people are really what matter in politics. If you do a good job for them, then you have political success. To criticize is one thing, to do something for Ward 3 is my goal."

On Bellantone's campaign literature, he is described as "an established local businessman." He is a director of the Italo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, has a degree of Commerce and Finance from the University of Messina, and is president of two sports clubs.

"I am in favour of disclosure of campaign fund sources," says Bellantone, "to ensure that the developers cannot manipulate this or any other election."

**PAT O'NEILL** — "There is every reason for students to get involved in municipal politics. They're going to inherit the problems being created now," said Pat O'Neill, aldermanic candidate in Ward 3.

"As well, of course, there are issues that directly affect students at the university. This is one of the worst-served areas in Metro for

public transit, as York students well know.

According to O'Neill, the major issue in the ward is bringing development of the Jane-Finch area to a halt. "There are six more high-rises being planned at the North-West corner of Jane and Finch, and that is just crazy. Social Services are at a minimum now, and increasing the population density further would only worsen the situation.

"The municipality should put its foot down and say no, we're not going to create a giant slum. Traffic congestion is terrible, almost every school in this community is overcrowded. Until there's some relief for services in this area, development must be halted."

"One of the major roles of council," says O'Neill, "is telling the governments 'No' to the cut-backs. There must be no further budget cuts in needed services."

Outgoing alderman in Ward 3 is Katie Hayhurst, who has been in that position for four years. Hayhurst is endorsing the O'Neill campaign.

O'Neill is an administrative assistant at Atkinson College and has been a shop steward in the York University Staff Association (YUSA) for two years. She studies part time at Atkinson taking Canadian studies.

She is a founding member of the Jane-Driftwood Community Centre Advisory Board, a founding member of Downsview-Weston Action Community and has been endorsed by Reform Metro (MMR).



Ex-York student, Michael Foster, aldermanic candidate in Ward Five.

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