

# ELECTION

## THE BUGLER

ATA Local #28



October 11, 2017

ELECTION DAY IS OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

## WELCOME TO THE ELECTION EDITION!!!

by Irene Deatcher

Don't worry... you will still get a regular issue on October 17<sup>th</sup>, but your Local Executive wanted to ensure that you had all the necessary information to make informed personal decisions for the upcoming municipal election.

Although there are many roles to fill (mayor, councilors, Catholic school trustees), this publication will only focus on candidates running for positions as Public School Board Trustees. To view a [listing of candidates for mayor or for councilor](#), please visit the Strathcona County website. A roster of candidates for [Catholic School Trustees](#) is also available.

The positions for trustees for Fort Saskatchewan were filled by acclamation, as were the positions for Lamont and Strathcona County North. This edition of The Bugler will look at candidates running for positions within Sherwood Park, Strathcona County South, and Vegreville. For a complete listing of candidates for trustee positions and for access to their video interviews, please visit the [Elk Island Public Schools website](#).

Our Past President, Lynn Johnston, contacted the 8 candidates and provided each with a list of 10 questions

pertaining to education and our school district. The questions were from a selection provided by Barnett House.

As you go through this issue, you will note that it starts with the list of questions. This is then followed by a section focused on the candidates. Each person was given an opportunity to provide a picture, short biography, and their answers. Every candidate (presented in alphabetical order by surname within each electoral area) who responded by the October 8<sup>th</sup> deadline for this publication has had their responses included.

We hope that you find this issue informative and useful as you prepare to vote on October 16<sup>th</sup>

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES



As asked by Lynn Johnston

1. Which three areas of education require immediate action in this jurisdiction?
2. What will you do, in your role as a trustee, to ensure that provincial funding supports student learning in the best possible way?
3. How do you see communication affecting your role as a trustee?
4. Which working and learning conditions do you deem negotiable? Which do you deem non-negotiable?
5. Does the school system provide adequately for teachers' professional development? If not, what improvements should be made?
6. To what extent should the process of negotiations between the school board and its employee groups be reported publicly?
7. Classrooms are becoming increasingly large and complex. What do you see as being the issues with supporting teachers and learners in these environments?
8. What programs in the jurisdiction do you feel need revamping and why?
10. What role should the school board take in discouraging bullying and supporting safe and caring schools?

## SHERWOOD PARK CANDIDATES

### DON IRWIN

1. *Better Consultation:* The largest issue that I am hearing in my close to 4000 door knocking visits is dissatisfaction with consultation. People, mostly parents are telling me that they do not feel they are being listened to and that their input is not valued. Some say they feel the decision has already been made before they have input. Some feel they are not being given the real reasons even if it is contrary to what they want.

I propose a full review of the Consultation process with full public participation.

*School Choice:* EIPS offers many types of programs and schools and I want to see this continue and expand. Choice allows parents to choose programs or schools that match their social, cultural and religious beliefs and practices. It also allows them to choose schools and programs that suit their student's aptitudes and interests. The keys are that programs and schools meet all the Provincial learning and facility standards so students are safe and experience a full education that shows respect and inclusiveness to all students and staff. We have personal experience with a variety of school types from home schooling, to private and public schools.

*To Further Enrich the Learning and Success of Each Student:* Education needs to be student centered and continually improved and updated through staff, administration, and Board professional development, ongoing curriculum review (especially the current Discovery Math approach), and ongoing education research.

2. One of the key roles of a Trustee is to advocate for the education needs and the provincial funding to best accomplish meeting these needs in Elk Island Public Schools. I will work closely with the Board, administration, parents, provincial elected officials, and Ministry of Education staff, ATA, ASTA, and other local and provincial groups and organizations to lobby for needed funding for our students and staff.
3. Communication is very important for a trustee as trustees approve the annual budget and all financial projects. I strongly believe in taking the time and effort to widely consult with all stakeholders on a regular basis through personal contact and written materials. I believe it is important for Trustees to know what is happening in each school and department.
4. I believe it is very important and essential that Trustees and all public servants work within the spirit and the letter of all agreements and contracts. Working and learning

conditions need to be safe, inclusive, and respectful to all parties – all working for the best result for students.

5. At present, I do not know if professional development is adequate or not but if elected as a Trustee I will be very interested to receive information from all involved sources on this issue. As a former principal I realize that Professional development is a very important for all staff and administration.
6. Negotiations need to be private business with no reporting of specifics. After negotiations are completed, then the outcome of negotiations can be reported in a general manner.
7. Safety, inclusiveness, and respect are the key operating principles and the success of each student. Ensuring teachers have adequate support is essential. An example of support would be learning assistants for special needs students. Also, professional development is a very important support to teachers and classrooms.
8. I am not aware of programs that need revamping but will be careful to listen to concerns from students, parents, and all staff but again will listen carefully to all stakeholders regarding program and service needs.
9. I believe in parent choice in the education of their children and I believe a variety of education methods from home schooling, to private schools, to alternate schools and programs within public schools. All education methods (schools) need to meet all human rights and the United Nations Declaration of Parents Right to Educate their own children and the requirements of being respectful and inclusive and caring towards all members of society.
10. The School Board needs to play a very active role to support safe and caring schools. Active participation would include initiating and supporting programs that work to this end. A recent program that may be worthwhile to participate in is the Canadian Football League – Diversity is Strength initiative. The trustees need to establish strong Policies and have administration establish strong administrative procedures.





## MATTHEW KING



My name is Matthew King and as a concerned parent I am running for trustee. I want my daughter to attend a school where she is part of a safe and supportive community where she can learn and grow. I spent 4 years living abroad working as a teacher. I appreciate the difficult work they do on our behalf and I want to support them in their efforts. My wife and I have lived in Sherwood Park since 2010 but my family has roots here and I have had family members serve as trustees in the past. This is a great opportunity to be involved in our education system and impact the lives of our children in a positive way. I am a member of the United Steelworkers union and appreciate the role unions have in representing the interests of their membership. As a

trustee I believe that we have common goals and by working together we can achieve them.

1. Having spoken with teachers and administrators I believe that there is a need to address the discovery math methods currently being used in classes. This system is not effectively preparing students for upper level math courses and schools should return to more traditional methods so that students can be successful. There are currently consultations underway for replacing Wye Elementary School. The new location and its boundaries will need to be addressed so that it meets the needs of families and the local community.
2. Funding for schools is always a balance between fixed costs and discretionary spending. With changes to school fees made this year schools are feeling additional pressure to find new ways of delivering the programs and services they have in the past. Tools used by teachers including smart boards and other audio systems need to be integrated into the classrooms carefully, to ensure that they are useful and enhance the learning environment.
3. Communication is essential to the role of a trustee. I will rely on the advice and experience of educational professionals to fully appreciate the complex issues that trustees face. I will also listen to the needs and concerns of parents to determine their point of view. Based on evidence from all stakeholders, trustees must make decisions that will have the desired outcome.
4. All students and faculty have the right to a safe and supportive environment. Each person in our schools deserve respect and dignity. When it comes to other issues we can discuss and negotiate to find the best way to deliver education in our schools.

5. As a parent I want highly skilled and trained teachers in our schools. Teachers should be encouraged to attend conventions, seminars, and pursue additional education. Teachers and staff who attend additional training should be encouraged to relay what they have learned to their colleagues.
6. It rarely helps to negotiate in the media or through speculation and rumor. As a public funded service schools ought to be transparent in the agreements they make, but during negotiations each side should respect the process and refrain from public comment.
7. Classrooms contain students of varying abilities and temperament. Each class needs to be assessed to determine the supports necessary so the teacher can succeed. The board needs to ensure that teachers are given access to the tools they need to assist them. This may involve new technologies, extra teaching assistants, or other teacher driven solutions.
8. I look forward to seeing where there are opportunities for improvement. We should never be content, but be continually looking at the programs we offer and seeing if they are serving the needs of our students.
9. I believe that parents ought to have choices in the education and programs that their children have access to. There is no one model that will work in all jurisdictions. In Sherwood Park, Strathcona Christian Academy functions as an alternative school within the public system. In some cases, schools may choose to remain private which may allow additional funding to be redirected to public schools. If our board was considering incorporating a private school I would want to meet with all stakeholders and see what is the best outcome for the students, teachers, and families involved.
10. The board ought to have clear guidelines and policies on bullying. All students and staff should exist in a space free from bullying and harassment. Most instances of bullying can be addressed in the classroom by teachers through dialogue with the affected students. In cases which are more serious I would like to see parents and administrators work together to find solutions. If problems continue to escalate the board ought to meet with those involved and seek to mediate a solution with the interests of all parties in mind.



## STRATHCONA COUNTY SOUTH CANDIDATES

### KARLA HOPE



Karla Hope is a wife, mom to two boys in elementary, and community member. She's passionate about education and offers a fresh perspective. Being a strong leader, she is not one to sit back passively but will take a stand for what she feels is right.

1. **Communication & Accountability** – In my recent experience I have seen that there is a missing link in accountability and

communication between the current board and those they represent in this jurisdiction. There is a great need to enhance and strengthen the relationship between the school board and our communities. The current “we know best” decision making process does not value input from the talented and experienced parents, teachers, county partners, and community members, and is a trend that does not serve our students well. As per the EIPS website, the role of a trustee is to be accountable to those they represent. This is why communication and accountability are a vital part of being a trustee.

**Provincial Funding & Budget Constraints** – The board needs to continue to watch how we are using the resources we have so that our education in EIPS is the best that it can be. We have limited dollars that can be spent, and there needs to be hard decisions that are made as to how we can continue to benefit our students and their education, while keeping the budget in mind.

**New Curriculum & School Act Amendments** – EIPS as a whole will need to work together to implement the new curriculum that will be coming out in the next term. Educators, EIPS Administration and Trustees will need to work together to offer adequate support to schools and teachers when bringing in these curriculum changes. Further to the new curriculum, the board needs to be in communication with the government to address or concerns or issues that are arising because of amendments made to the school act, or different bills being brought in. If these changes are not improving education farther down the line in school for our students and families, this must be relayed to the Minister of Education.

2. Currently, since 2008/2009 fiscal year, government funding for K-12 education has increased from \$6.1 billion to \$8.8 billion in 2017/2018. This is an increase of 45 per cent. We need to ensure that this funding continues to increase as costs of living also go up.

The implementation of Bill 1 (an Act to Reduce School Fees) funding will be provided to school jurisdictions to support the elimination of fees previously charged to parents for instructional supplies or materials. There needs to be ongoing consultation with our jurisdiction so we can provide feedback to the Education Ministers office if this Bill is improving education within our schools.

Further to this, we need to ensure there is adequate funding for our students who desire to have alternative programming.

3. Ensuring communication & accountability is one of the areas that I believe needs to be looked at and be re-evaluated. If the board of trustees is not in open communication with those they represent, how can they truly understand what young families and students are facing within the public school system?

It is one thing to have a board say they went through the "motions" they were required to when looking at building, closing, or modernizing a school, but in speaking to parents the largest area of concern that has been voiced is the lack of validation parents & community members have felt when voicing issues. And further the lack of communication that was offered around their concerns.

As a parent with school aged children, and a young family I am aware of what students are going through in the classroom, and can relate to other parents' concerns. This type of communication & understanding is very important. Someone who has been retired for many years may not understand the current stage of life or what students & children are facing on a daily basis. This understanding absolutely plays a role in communication and the role of a trustee when making large decisions for a school board with over 17,000 students.

4. At any point, if we have a classroom that has potential health and safety concerns, that is clearly a non-negotiable issue. Our children & staff need to have a safe learning environment. Water also needs to be lead free, and if funding does not permit to update the current plumbing, a plan must be in place to have the lines flushed on a daily basis.

Further to that, with the turmoil many cities in our world have experienced, I feel that something each school must discuss and consider is a plan if there was ever a breach of safety within the school.

Do our students know what would be expected of them & do our parents know what the plan of action would be in this circumstance? Unfortunately, this is a topic that I believe needs to be visited and changed if need be on a yearly basis to protect our children in this unfortunate event.



I believe class sizes can be somewhat negotiable to a certain extent. But I don't believe that the answer to improving education (for staff & students) is to create large "super schools" where we may have 30 or more students in a classroom or modular. While these numbers may "work" on paper, but we need to ask ourselves are there different options we could try, and do our students really learn to the best of their ability, and are we improving our educators working conditions by having so many students in one classroom?

5. I do not have great experience in this area, as I have not been an educator, however I do feel that ongoing professional development for our educators & support staff is extremely important.

The issues our students are facing (technology, gender & sexuality confusion, etc) on a daily basis are one that can affect their future, and I believe that educators need to be equipped with the resources, understanding and education to truly support our children in an ever-changing world.

6. In sticking with accountability, I believe it is important that if stake-holders are looking for information regarding an area within the education realm it should be made available to them. However, with that being said, I do not know the process to how negotiations between the school board and employee groups are made, and there may be factors that I am not aware of when taking this question into consideration.
7. My 2 biggest concerns in regards to classrooms are class size and the amount of time technology or devices are used within the classroom.

As mentioned in a previous question, I do not believe we are doing our students or educators any favors by creating large classrooms of nearly 30 or even more students in some circumstances. Having 28-30+ student's takes away from the positive learning environment educators are trying to create.

We need to take into consideration for both students and teachers that when classrooms are overcrowded our teachers may be spread too thin, they may spend more time trying to manage the class rather than teach, students may not receive as much one on one time resulting in them falling behind and the noise level in a classroom will increase possibly resulting in some students' ability to learn or work.

If we feel that it is acceptable to have large classrooms, and not a heavy amount of support for our teachers, I believe there needs to be more conversation about what is working and what isn't within the classroom. If children are not excelling and learning to the best of their ability because the classroom is overcrowded, we need to figure out a different answer.

Secondly, our world is changing very fast and our children along with it. One area of fast change is technology. As we see technology advancing we see more devices brought into the classroom to be utilized. While I do believe this is an important area to be taught, there needs to be firm guidelines around the uses of devices in the classroom.

How are we going to ensure our students aren't being exposed to areas on the internet that are dangerous, or could create vulnerable situations? We need to have an extensive understanding of what internet bullying really looks like, and how it is affecting our students on a daily basis.

Lastly, we need to monitor how much time students are spending in front of a screen. Studies have shown that when children spend too much time in front of a screen they have trouble making friends & showing empathy.

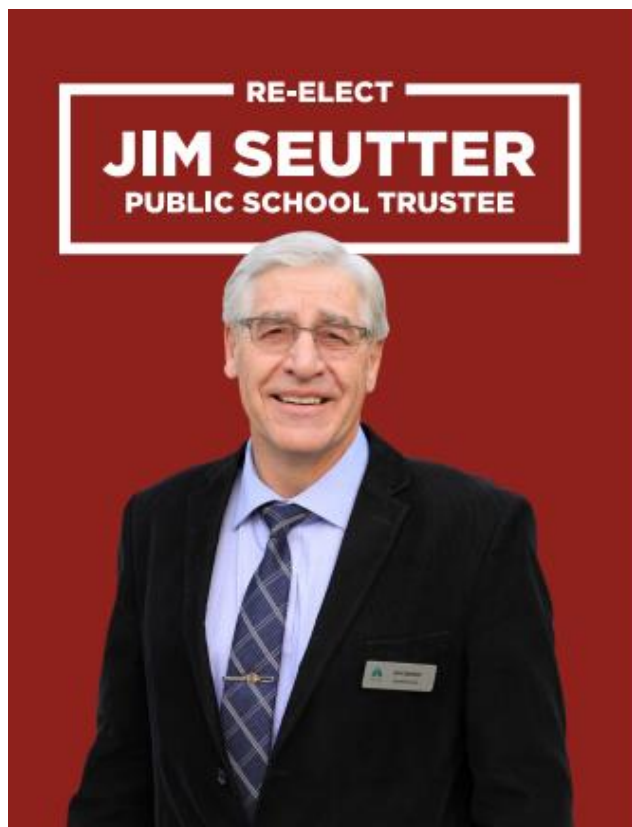
If technology is going to be brought into the classroom for students at a young age, there needs to be firm, and clear guidelines centered around this. The question needs to be asked if we are truly doing our students any favors by giving the opportunity to spend extended amount of times on devices within the classroom.

8. I have done a small amount of research into inclusion for students with special needs within a regular class setting. I would like to speak to parents that have students with special needs to see and understand if they feel the current program for their child is working, and if they feel there are enough supports being offered. Any program that has children with special needs in a regular class setting has to have an open line of communication between the teachers, support staff and parents. I would be interested in hearing if there are areas that may need to be revamped when it comes to inclusion for special needs students.
9. In our school system, I believe alternative programming is extremely important, and this includes the incorporation of private schools within the public school system. As a parent, I think it is important for a family to decide what type of education is best for their child(ren) and if this means a public or private school that is absolutely their decision to make.
10. Schools are where our children learn to communicate and collaborate with the people around them. I want to ensure that our school communities & staff are inclusive of all students and that students are empowered, inspired and feel safe to reach their full potential. It is so important that when students walk through the doors of their school, regardless of an elementary, junior or high school, they feel welcomed and supported. This is why it is so important to remember that every child matters and deserves the opportunity not only to succeed but to thrive.

Schools boards need to be working with schools, principals, staff and parents to ensure our children are not being bullied. I believe this also applies to what happens on the school bus.

The school board has done a good job in ensuring our students are safe, but bullying will also be an issue within schools, and also an issue that is constantly changing. Having safe guards in place that are revisited and re-evaluated on a yearly basis as to what is working and what is not is important.

## JIM SEUTTER



### VOTE FOR Principled Leadership

Elk Island Public Schools Trustee South of Wye Road

#### Honesty, Common Sense, Parental Choice

For over 40 years, I have been dedicated to seeing students succeed and excel in their studies. I believe in nurturing school-based leadership, recognizing and championing diversity, and collaborating as parents, students, and educators, to deliver quality educational experiences.

- Firm Supporter of Community-based Schools
- 33 years' experience as a counsellor, and award-winning teacher and principal in EIPS
- Husband, father of 3, grandfather of 9
- Avid volunteer locally and internationally

[jimseutter.ca](http://jimseutter.ca)

1. -School Fees being micromanaged by Alberta Education
  - Alberta Education's Curriculum Review
  - School Act Review
2. Allocate the funds from Alberta Education that we get as much as possible to supporting student learning in the classrooms of the district.
3. I plan to seek positive lines of communication with all sectors of the district - trustees, central office administration, school councils, teachers, educational assistants, all support staff and students. My aim is to treat others as I want to be treated.
4. This is a big issue as working and learning conditions cost money to improve or change. A careful study would need to be done to see what the trade-offs would be required. An example of this would be increasing Junior High student funding levels—what would be cut to do it? Would we do what Alberta Education did to fund School Fees by taking away money from Senior Highs?
5. We recently increased the Board's contribution for teacher's Professional Development from \$200,000 to \$218,000 per year and that should help fill any shortfalls.
6. Once the negotiations are completed a press release should be issued with the general results. Individual privacy should be maintained.

7. Try to manage class sizes so that the best individual attention can be given to students. Educational assistants should be made available for "inclusion" students with supporting P.D. for the teacher.

8. One program that needs revamping is the Junior High student funding levels. They are lower than the Elementary student funding levels. There are increased program needs at the Junior High level. Currently the funding is not providing K to 9 schools with a full range of program options for students.

9. I think the incorporation of private schools into the public system as an Alternate Program is beneficial for students and parent choice. It also supports the United Nations Declaration of a parent's right to choose what is best for the education of their children.

10. The board must develop strong policy directives to make sure everyone knows that bullying is wrong and will be dealt with appropriately. The board should encourage central office administration to enact strong administrative procedures of support for a safe and caring environment in schools.





“Where to Vote” cards arrive at households late September.

# Make a plan to VOTE!

For your:

- Mayor
- Councillor
- School Trustee

**Election Day is Monday, October 16**

Voting hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Or **Advance Vote**

- First two weeks in October  
at many locations

Or apply to vote

by **Special Ballot**

Visit [www.strathcona.ca/election](http://www.strathcona.ca/election)

Your source for all Election 2017 information!

**Election Office**

Phone: 780-400-2017

**VOTE**  
**OCT 16**  
**ELECTION 2017**



**STRATHCONA  
COUNTY**

# Election 2017 – The Basics

**Election Day is Monday, October 16**

**Voting hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

## Voters will elect:

- Mayor and Councillors (8) for Strathcona County
- Board Trustees for Elk Island Catholic Schools and Elk Island Public Schools

These positions will serve a four-year term in office.

## Nomination Day is September 18

- candidates officially file nomination papers to run in Election 2017

## Eligibility to vote

- 18 years of age or older
- a Canadian citizen
- a resident of Alberta for the six (6) consecutive months immediately preceding election day
- a resident of Strathcona County on Election Day

## Advance Voting – or by Special Ballot

You can plan to vote on Election Day. Or, voters can choose to vote at one of the many advance vote polling stations.

See attached for advance voting dates, times and locations.

## Special Ballots

Voters may request a special ballot through the Election Office, if they are:

- physically incapacitated
- absent from Strathcona County on Election Day and the advance vote dates
- a returning officer, deputy returning officer, constable, candidate, official agent or scrutineer

Special ballot and advance vote results will be generated on Election Day.

## Institutional Voting

Residents of nursing homes and senior accommodation facilities may vote at an institutional voting station set up at their facility.

## "Where to Vote" cards

"Where to Vote" cards will be delivered to all Strathcona County households at the end of September. The card will include official candidates, your Election Day voting station, and advance voting details.

Strathcona County is divided into eight wards. You **MUST** vote at the voting station within your ward and voting subdivision on Election Day (unless voting in an advance vote or by special ballot).

The online "Where to Vote" application — available now — also provides your Election Day voting station location — just type in your address.

## Bring your ID

Voters are required to present identification that confirms name and current address to vote.

(Driver's licence, Alberta Identification Card, utility bill - full list of accepted ID on the Strathcona County website)

Visit [www.strathcona.ca/election](http://www.strathcona.ca/election)  
Your source for all Election 2017 information!

## Election Office

Community Centre, 3rd Floor, North Wing,  
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and

1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Phone: 780-400-2017

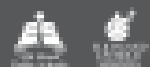
Email: [election@strathcona.ca](mailto:election@strathcona.ca)

**VOTE**  
**OCT 16**  
ELECTION 2017

**Make a plan to vote!**

[www.strathcona.ca/election](http://www.strathcona.ca/election)

**STRATHCONA**  
COUNTY



# Advance Voting

To increase convenience and make it as easy as possible for citizens to vote, all voters can take advantage of voting at one of these advance voting opportunities.

If you plan on being away or unavailable on Election Day, or simply want to avoid any congestion at voting stations on Election Day, you may choose to advance vote.

*(Dates, times and locations subject to change)*

<b>Sunday, Oct. 1</b>	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Millennium Place - 2000 Premier Way
<b>Oct. 2 - 6</b>	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Vote Bus - Sherwood Park Mall Parking Lot 2020 Sherwood Drive
<b>Monday, Oct. 2</b>	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Heartland Hall 55305 Range Road 214
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 4</b>	3 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Bethel Transit Terminal 650 Bethel Drive
<b>Friday, Oct. 6</b>	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	South Contact Office 22142 S Cooking Lake Road (Fire Station 2)
<b>Saturday, Oct. 7</b>	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Strathcona County Community Centre - Agora 401 Festival Lane
<b>Monday, Oct. 9</b>	12 Noon - 5 p.m.	Vote Bus - Sherwood Park Mall Parking Lot 2020 Sherwood Drive
<b>Oct. 10 - 13</b>	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Vote Bus - Sherwood Park Mall Parking Lot 2020 Sherwood Drive
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 10</b>	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	MacEwan University - Paul Byrne Hall - Room 9-115 10524 - 110 St NW
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 11</b>	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	NAIT - Natrium 11762 - 106 Street, Edmonton
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 11</b>	2 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Ardrossan Recreation Complex 80 - 1 Avenue, Ardrossan
<b>Thursday, Oct. 12</b>	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	University of Alberta - Students' Union Office - Alumni Room 8900 - 114 Street, Edmonton
<b>Saturday, Oct. 14</b>	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Strathcona County Community Centre - Agora 401 Festival Lane

**VOTE**  
**OCT 16**  
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**STRATHCONA**  
COUNTY

