

Councillor Eli El-Chantiry
Ward 5 West Carleton-March

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West Carleton Review

SERVING WEST CARLETON COMMUNITIES SINCE 1980

Year 30, Issue 7

February 18, 2010

36 pages

Election ready

City council candidate to campaign on improving services, leadership

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WEST CARLETON - Alex Aronec plans to campaign for the job of West Carleton-March councillor using the "veil of ignorance" strategy. The 20-year-old political science student at Carleton University is door knocking and meeting with groups such as community associations and the Carleton Landowners Association to gather input and opinions, rather than relaying his beliefs and intentions.

Aronec though spoke freely to the Review on a number of issues facing ward 5 voters in the months leading up to the Oct. 25 election. A graduate of West Carleton Secondary School who lives in Morgan's Grant, Aronec has isolated three campaign issues he would move on if elected: snow removal happening infrequently or too often; water contamination from road salt in Constance Bay; and inefficiencies at city hall.

"I like to go out and actually do something. There are issues that need to get done and I might as well step up and do something," he said. "I'm trying to go in with a veil of ignorance, with removing all preconditions."

OC TRANSPRO SERVICE

On the possibility of OC Tranpspo bus service in Carp, Aronec advocates a referendum to find out what the constituents want. City-wide, he would like to see a Toronto-like Go Train pass through the village to downtown.

See Aronec page 2

CUPPA CARNIVAL FUN



Photo by Sherry Haaima

Fitzroy Harbour hosted its annual winter carnival Feb. 9 to 14 with plenty of fun activities for all ages. Above, brothers Sam, left, and Conner Hopper warm up with some hot chocolate outside the community centre. For more photos from the event, turn to Pages 32 and 33.

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Submitted photo

Candidate Alex Aronec's one encounter with incumbent Eli El-Chantiry came at a public meeting when the councillor refused to allow Aronec, who was sporting a Mohawk at that time, the opportunity to pose a second question.

Continued from front

"If a good majority want it, we should go for it," he said of bus service. "It's all about what the people want."

tions if Ottawa is executing it properly.

"Do we need it out here? Maybe not. But now that we have it, we might as well keep it."

BEACH ACCESS

Aronec is aware of the Constance Bay beach issue where beachfront owners are fed up with partiers crowding the sandy shoreline. He confesses to having been a beach goer with his friends.

"It's a public place, so you can't deny someone else that enjoyment," he said. "It's like a park."

However, asked if he is aware that some owners insist the beach is private property, he said private property rights must be respected. He didn't advocate for a legal ruling to solve the dispute.

MARCH ROAD

As for widening of March Road from two lanes to four, a project commuters have advocated for many years, Aronec would prefer to study the issue with the city's urban planners first.

"If everyone is going to take March Road, we have to (widen) it. We also have to see what they are doing in other places. We are at a crucial point (in municipal transportation). It's do or die."

DIVIDED COMMUNITY

He disagrees there is a long-standing urban-rural divide, but admits of a "polarization" between people who want a quiet, undeveloped countryside and those who want vibrant communities with local jobs. While he admits to "being on the fence" with the CLA, whom he met with recently, Aronec said they aren't taking the right approach in having their valid concerns addressed.

"I think there needs to be a willingness to listen to the other side," he said.

COYOTE CONTEST

As for a coyote contest underway in West Carleton, Aronec said safety is paramount, that at times culls are needed, and protection is crucial.

"How long before they start going after small kids or adults?" he said. "Maybe it has to be reduced."

TAXES

On taxes, he said the ideal would be to peg increases on the rate of inflation, but concedes to a certain inevitability.

"We shot ourselves in the foot with taxation," he said, adding that a zero increase is unrealistic, even though some attention must be paid to daycare spots and seniors on fixed incomes.

He said the green bin program is good in theory, but ques-

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