

Patty's Corner

With the election only days away, I find myself feeling like I did the last two weeks of high school; eager to get on with the next instalment of my life, and a little anxious about leaving behind the comfort of the preparation phase.

But most of all, I'm looking forward to looking back on all of this!

In the final analysis, this campaign has been a ball. Vic and I have met some terrific new people and had the chance to re-connect with old friends. And we haven't spent this much quality time with our families since we lived under their roofs! We covered the city hand-delivering the 2020 Vision plan and discovered fabulous neighbourhoods that we didn't know existed. We also got a really good look at the deplorable condition of many of our city streets. We talked with thousands of concerned citizens, and even more importantly, we listened.

The people of North Bay have listened, too. And what they've heard from Vic is a comprehensive, honest, non-nonsense approach to meeting our problems and challenges head-on. The response has been overwhelming, with thousands of people calling the campaign office and stopping us in the street to tell us they believe the 2020 Vision plan that Vic proposed is the best way to put this town back on track.

I am so proud of the positive campaign our team mounted, and the way Vic kept his focus on the issues. This is your first indicator of what kind of leader he is; honest, hardworking, sincere and ready for anything!

The Rant

This is my final request. Actually, it's more of a command. On Monday, November 10, GET OUT AND VOTE.

You've followed the candidates' campaigns, talked to them in person, listened to the speeches and attended the debates. You have a good idea who will best represent your interests. All you have to do now is go to your designated polling station, fill in your ballot according to your own conscience and make your choices known.

If you think your vote doesn't matter, think back to last year's Provincial by-election. Nineteen votes separated the two candidates. Do you have any idea how many groups of nineteen in the Nipissing riding are claiming bragging rights for that election? And if that doesn't convince you, take a moment to recall the 2000 Presidential election in the United States.

Freedom of expression is a protected right in this country. But if you want your opinion to carry any weight, you have to participate in the process. Make an informed decision and then exercise your right to vote.