

★FEATURE

LONDON VOTES 2014 - CAMPAIGN UPDATE

London's municipal election campaign is underway, and with roughly eight weeks left until the big day, local candidates are busy vying for voters' attention.

Whether they're at the door, speaking on a morning talk show, or holding a campaign event, electoral hopefuls are eager to promote their plans for the city's future.

Recently, SCENE spoke with mayoral candidate Roger Caranci to get his impressions of the election campaign so far, and what he's been hearing from Londoners.

"I think that the one recurring thing I'm hearing out there is people are a little distressed about what's happened in the past four years. That comes up with almost everybody I speak to with regards to what's been happening in the city," Caranci said.

"We're running a positive campaign with ideas. I

forward, and make sure more Londoners like what they're hearing, rather than just a few," he said.

In the August 14 edition of SCENE, first-time mayoral hopeful Jim Kogelheide eluded to a collaborative effort undertaken by several candidates who felt undue media attention had been focused on the 'big three' contenders for mayor - Caranci, Matt Brown and Joe Swan.

On August 22, Kogelheide announced that he and fellow mayoral candidates - Alex Main, Steve Gardner, Jim Kogelheide and Dennis Perry - had forged an informal alliance to promote the notion of equal air time for all candidates.

"These four energetic and passionate individuals have united to create fun and engaging opportunities for London voters to realize that there are many voices in our upcoming municipal elections that should be recognized and heard. They are now in the process of building a number of events that will accomplish this goal," the release stated.

Calling themselves the Alliance, the quartet is comprised of Kogelheide, a school bus driver and local environmental activist who thinks London should embrace a philosophy of 'green urbanism'; Main, motivated to run for mayor so he can represent the city's working class and their interests; Gardner, who advocates the '3-1' rule for municipal success: Listen, Learn and Lead; and Perry, a life-time Forest City resident looking to improve economic prospects for people in the community.

"[All four candidates] are motivated and driven individuals who love London, the people and the many community businesses and organizations that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for others. Their ideas may vary, but they are united by one basic truth - democracy and the opportunity for all voices to be heard," the release stated.

While London mayoralty race will undoubtedly be the most closely watched in coming weeks, this fall's municipal election will also determine the make-up of the next city council.

In Ward 5, Randy Warden - a local event organizer and volunteer - has been speaking with North London residents about their concerns. In a newsletter released at the end of July, Warden identified unchecked development as one of the key issues affecting his ward.

"Since I began my campaign for election as city councillor for Ward 5, I have made a concerted effort to meet with constituents and gain perspective

for day-to-day issues in each and every corner of our community. Few things gain more attention than development," Warden wrote.

"Interestingly, few people seem to have problems with the development or with intensification. The London Plan has tremendous support."

"The areas for concern are an apparent lack of respect for existing communities or failing to adequately graduate low density communities to high density including high rise towers."

"Understandably, no one wants to sit on their single family residential porch staring up at a tower," he wrote.

Warden - clearly troubled by the approach to development taken by the city's current leadership - is eager to wrest away power from those he claims are not looking out for the best interests of the community.

"I recognize there is a business to running our city. I further recognize the importance and value developers bring to our city. That being said, we are the city," Warden wrote.

"Councillors are elected by their constituents to represent them when governing city affairs. When any councillor becomes conflicted with this mandate, it is time to hang up their hat and move aside for someone that will speak up for the people," he wrote.

(The other candidates for Ward 5 are Maureen Cassidy, William Gordon, Steve Hogg and Kevin Labonte.)

Meanwhile, in West London, long-time Forest City resident Ed Corrigan has thrown his hat in the ring to become Ward 9 councillor.

Corrigan was born in London and has lived in the ward he wants to represent for more than 50 years. He has been actively involved in leadership roles in community organizations since his youth.

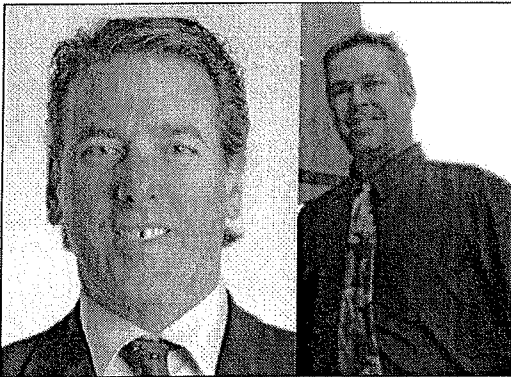
These organizations include University of Western Ontario University Students Council, Neighbourhood Legal Services (where he served as chair), Sunfest, the Urban League, the Middlesex Law Association Board of Trustees, Elisabeth's Charity Run, the Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project, and many others.

As well as being active in more than 25 community and professional associations, Corrigan runs a successful law office. He has expertise in civil litigation, employment law, administrative law and judicial reviews, and is recognized as one of Canada's top immigration lawyers.

(The other candidates for Ward 9 are Doreen Gysbers, Eric Haidar, Anna Hopkins and Jeff Schiller.)

For more lists and information on mayoral, ward and school trustee candidates in London's 2014 municipal election, visit the city's website. The vote takes place on Monday, October 27.

- Chris Morgan



MAYORAL CANDIDATES ROGER CARANCI (L) AND JIM KOGEHEIDE ARE BUSY TRYING TO WIN LONDONERS' HEARTS AND MINDS BEFORE OCTOBER'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION

think we're the only ones to bring a concrete platform forward so far. We're not putting the platform all out at once; we want to put it out in pieces so people have an opportunity to digest them. I think that approach is working very well and people are liking what they hear," he said.

"We're engaging with the public on various issues. I had my 'kitchen table cabinet' a few weeks ago and it worked out really well. We covered the general themes that people want to talk about, and we're doing another themed one this week that will deal with issues that ethnic communities in London are facing," Caranci said.

"We want to hear what they have to say, and we'll be doing more of these sorts of events as we go along. It's not that we haven't consulted; we have, and I think we have a very good idea of what is needed. I just want to make sure we refine the ideas I've brought

FOREST CITY SURPLUS
fesurplus.com

SOLAR SMARTPHONE and MP3 PLAYER CHARGERS
Attaches to your backpack to charge on the go
NEW! only **\$34.95**

MICROWAVES
Scratch and Dent
While supplies last - limit 1 per customer
0.7 from **\$19.95**
Cu. Ft. Capacity

COMPACT FRIDGES
Cold Boop
Big box store surplus scratch and dent from **\$69.99**

COMPACT FREEZERS
5 Cubic Feet
Canadian manufacturer scratch and dent surplus product! only **\$159.**

1712 Dundas St. E. at Third