



## ABRH Newsletter

August 2022

### 1. Election 2022

All interested candidates for the municipal election have now registered, and campaigning has begun in earnest. For a summary of who is running for which position, please see one of the following:

- Richmond Hill website (<https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/election.aspx>)
- CAG website (<https://www.cagr Richmondhill.com/rhvotes2022>)

Some wards (e.g. Ward 3) have few candidates to choose from, while others have many (e.g. Ward 5). Some of the candidates have websites and established platforms, while others do not. ABRH has determined that it is impractical to try to evaluate all candidates with respect to our published values criteria, and therefore may not be endorsing specific candidates in the coming election and/or will concentrate only on selected wards. This strategy is still evolving.

Meanwhile, we will be focusing our efforts to publicize as widely as possible the activities of those candidates **WHO DO NOT DESERVE YOUR VOTE**. The citizens of Richmond Hill deserve to know the facts before they go to the ballot box, and we intend to help facilitate their decisions about who **NOT** to vote for.

### 2. Third-Party Advertiser

Our mandate as a registered Third-Party Advertiser allows us to broadcast any advertisement “that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate in the election”. We are currently the only organization registered as a Third-Party Advertiser for this election in Richmond Hill.

We have an excellent team of people who are helping to do research on the candidates, creating flyers and other content to help explain the issues to residents that may not be familiar with municipal politics, and managing social media. We would greatly appreciate donations to assist us in funding the advertising of these messages as widely as possible. To donate to these efforts, please visit our website, <https://abetterrichmondhill.ca/donate-2/>

### 3. Additional Court Cases launched by Perrelli and his Chief of Staff

In addition to Councillor Perrelli’s existing court case against the City of Richmond Hill, as described in our July newsletter, he has now launched another suit for \$3M against the City, most of the current Council members (except for his typical supporters, Councillors Beros and Muench), and multiple current and former Richmond Hill staff members.

In addition, his Chief of Staff Mike Makrigiorgos is also suing the City and former City Manager Mary-Anne Dempster for \$1.5M. Mr. Makrigiorgos was noted in the 2021 Sunshine List to be one of the highest paid employees in Richmond Hill. A Freedom of Information request launched by ABRH determined that his excessive remuneration was covered by discretionary funds controlled by the Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor, both positions being held by Councillor Perrelli in 2021.

These lawsuits continually distract our City Council from doing the positive work needed to run our City, and may result in direct costs to taxpayers. For more information about the lawsuits, see the following links:

- <https://www.thestar.com/local-richmond-hill/news/2022/08/19/regional-councillor-sues-former-city-manager-council-members-city-for-millions-over-alleged-abuse-of-power.html>
- <https://www.cagrichmondhill.com/post/another-perrelli-lawsuit-and-this-one-is-a-doozy-3m>
- <https://www.thestar.com/local-richmond-hill/news/2022/08/22/city-of-richmond-hill-former-manager-face-1m-suit-over-alleged-abuse-of-power-defamation.html>

Further to his multiple lawsuits against the City, Councillor Perrelli is now also running as a candidate for **Mayor of Richmond Hill!** ABRH believes it is important that all residents be aware of these developments and his other related activities prior to the election.

#### 4. Board of Directors Update

Two members of our Board of Directors have recently resigned to follow other pursuits.

- Pat Pollock resigned on August 12, and is currently working to support the Council Accountability Group (CAG) as well as certain candidates running for election. We wish Pat much success in her efforts, as we believe our end goals are similar!
- Graham Churchill resigned on August 15, and is now a Director of the Ontario Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, which focuses on municipal issues where they intersect with the province. He is going to use his time and energy to focus on his interests in building better cities across the province. We wish Graham well in his future endeavours.

#### 5. Ward 1 Meet and Greet

There is a meet and greet event for Ward 1 residents to meet with Carol Davidson (running for Ward 1 councillor), Godwin Chan (running for Regional Councillor) and David West (running for re-election as Mayor). Details of the event are as follows:

- Date: Sunday September 11, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Venue: Oak Ridges Community Centre, Program Room #1 (indoor/outdoor facility)
- Free parking with permit, apply at <https://richmondhill.aimsparking.com>
- Light refreshments available

If you are planning to attend, e-mail Deb Thompson at [debsemail53@gmail.com](mailto:debsemail53@gmail.com)