

## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE: Jeff Thom

Meet Rookie Councillor Jeff Thom

By Stephen Somerville

This is the first in an ongoing series of short profiles on the new members of the Aurora Town Council.

Rookie Jeff Thom surprised a lot of folks in our community when he finished fourth in the municipal Council balloting last November. Included in that category was himself.

?I was shocked and honored that I finished fourth. I was very fortunate to have a great campaign team.?

Anything shock you over your first couple of months in office?

?No, I knew that the workload would be heavy, but I was prepared for it. You also get asked to attend a number of community events and store/business openings, which I enjoy, as I love meeting people.?

I believe that you are the youngest member of Council. Is that true?

?Yes, but only by a couple of months. Paul Pirri and I attended high school together. He just celebrated his birthday in January and I will turn 28 in April.?

Getting used to your fellow Councillors?

(Laughs) ?Yes, a very good group of people from different backgrounds and priorities but so far we are working collaboratively together.?

What made you run for Council?

?I have had a life-long interest in politics and I always thought that I would throw my hat into the ring at some point.?

What are the Town's biggest two challenges or opportunities?

?The Town's biggest two challenges or opportunities over the next four years will be to prudently manage our Town's finances and to balance the needs of growth with protecting our heritage, environment and quality of life.

?I want to see us promote our Town's heritage. Also, the province's Oak Ridges Moraine legislation comes up for discussion this year which is a very important issue for our community. I want to see the current protections remain in place.?

You seem very interested in heritage and culture ? tell me more.

?It shocks me that so many people don't know Canada's history, such as the date of Confederation or the name of our first Prime Minister. I really take an interest in local history and culture. Aurora has a fascinating history which is well worth telling and I want to work to promote Aurora's history.?

How long have you lived in Aurora?

?I was born and raised in Aurora. Apart from going away to university, I have lived here my whole life in Aurora.?

Any family?

?I have a girlfriend, Kaelyn.?

What is your educational background?

?I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Brock University.?

What did you do for a living before seeking public office?

?I have been working in the family business ? Thom Partners Inc. ? a sports marketing company - since I graduated from University five years ago. The company purchases advertising on behalf of clients for various sports events across the country.

?I really enjoy what I do and I get an opportunity to work with my dad (Dave), mom (Dale) and my sister Heather. We are a very close knit family.?

What kinds of things do you like to do outside of Council?

?I enjoy playing recreational adult hockey and I really like playing squash. If time permits, I try to play squash three or four times per week. I also like to attend concerts.?

What Council Committees are you part of?

?We haven't finalized our Committees yet, but we will likely know in the next week or so.?

I play pick up hockey and also on an ?old timers? hockey team with Jeff's dad, Dave. At the end of the interview I wished Jeff well and told him that he needs to come out and play again in one of our Sunday afternoon hockey outings so that he can ensure that his dad arrives on time for a change!

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