

Dawe re-elected for second term; new and familiar faces join Council



(A newly re-elected Geoff Dawe speaks to supporters at his victory party on Monday night. Auroran photo by Brock Weir)

By Brock Weir

It has been a long road since Mayor Geoffrey Dawe declared his intentions to seek re-election last winter, but it was a fruitful one as Aurorans returned him to the post Monday night with a solid mandate.

Mayor Dawe clinched the mayoral race against challenger Councillor John Gallo with 8,903 votes to Councillor Gallo's 4,106.



Candidates Greg Cook and John Abel



Candidate Tom Mrakas, right, speaks to columnist Stephen Somerville



Candidate Wendy Gaertner watches the results roll in with her son.

As the vote for Aurora's eight Council seats shook down, Mayor Dawe will be joined at the table in the 2014 ? 2018 Council term with some familiar and fresh faces. Councillor John Abel was returned as Deputy Mayor, garnering the highest number of votes in a 28-member Council race at 6,098.

Coming in second is incumbent Councillor Sandra Humfries with 5,052 votes, followed by incumbent Councillor Michael Thompson with 4,974, newcomer Jeff Thom with 4,921, incumbent Councillor Wendy Gaertner with 4,605, newcomer Harold Kim at 4,098, newcomer Tom Mrakas with 3,826 and incumbent Paul Pirri with 3,760.

Falling just short of securing a place at the table once again was incumbent Councillor Evelyn Buck, who came in ninth with 3,719 votes.

Voters also re-elected Elizabeth Crowe to another term as York Catholic District School Board Trustee for Aurora, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville with 3,564 votes to challenger Mark Sullivan's 2,023. Peter Adams-Luchowski was also elected as Aurora and King's trustee on the York Region District School Board with 4,432 votes, followed by Alex Noudelman at 2,976 and Liliana Usvat at 2,288.

Speaking to his supporters at his victory party at Graystones, Mayor Dawe reiterated his pride in his campaign.

"We ran a positive campaign, we focused on our record, we focused on our vision and we focused on our goal," he said. "We focused on Aurora as the best place to live in York Region. I am completely committed to making sure that not only do we say it is the best place to live in York Region, but we're moving up that scale in Canada. The message we portrayed throughout our campaign resonated with the residents of Aurora. They want positive, they want growth, they want to know what you're going to do, they want you to know where you came from, they want to know what you are going to do, and when you are going to do it. We delivered that message."