

## Dawe, Mrakas kick off the race for Mayor



By Brock Weir

One declared his intention to run in February, the other ? well, his intentions were, in his own words, ?the worst kept secret in Aurora,? but both made it official on Tuesday morning.

Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor Tom Mrakas officially filed their nomination papers for Aurora's top job as soon as nominations opened Tuesday morning, kick ?starting the 2018 Municipal Election and the race for mayor.

?I am enthusiastic about the prospects,? said Mayor Dawe when asked why he wanted to file his nomination at the earliest possible moment. ?We have a new grandson, our first one, and it is very special and unique, but it has also caused me to re-look at a lot of priorities and it is really quite amazing. Part of that is a re-invigoration of what I would like to see happen in our community.

?Our Town is changing. It was on the horizon a number of years ago that we're moving from a growth community to a mature community and that's exactly where we're going. It requires a different level of thinking, a different type of thinking, and it certainly requires a far more collaborative approach to how we do things. So, that requires that we step back and reassess how we have done things and how we can move forward.?

On Councillor Mrakas' part, he said he wanted to get his nomination papers early because ?it has been the worst-kept secret in Aurora.?

?I am looking forward to discussing the issues and how we can have conversations about how we make sure our community is served in the best possible way,? he said, noting growth and development are issues top of mind. ?It's the fact that we need to ensure that we continue to grow the way we want as Aurora. So, the good thing is with the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) being no more, it allows us, as a municipality, to have that alternate authority and ultimate say. I think we need strong leadership that works, and we will make sure we grow the way we want to grow.