

New CAO wants Aurora to have bigger voice



By Brock Weir

Doug Nadorozny sees himself as a conduit between the residents of Aurora and Town Hall ? for better or worse.

The Town's newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) enters his second week on the job this week, after formally taking the helm from interim CAO Pat Moyle last Tuesday, and is quickly getting on the issues facing Aurora and what Aurorans expect from Town Hall.

?I am genuinely interested in helping the community develop a good, strong relationship with Town Hall so whether that is working out a problem and being a bit of an arbitrator with bureaucracy and the community, or whether that is being part of the unfortunate crew that has to deliver some bad news to the community in terms of a planning direction that isn't going to be popular. I am not going to hide away from any of that.

?I am quite excited to be in a community that wants to be engaged, that wants to be involved, because, at the end of the day, it is all about relationships.?

Mr. Nadorozny comes to Aurora from Sudbury, where he helped guide the City of Greater Sudbury into fruition at the time of amalgamation in 2000 and 2001.

He first got his feet wet in the public sector following a successful career in the private sphere, founding his own company in the technology industry.

Being his own boss, he says he was intrigued by the public sector, particularly when it came to issues like economic development and planning. At first, however, he says he thought a leap into the public sector would be ?too constraining? for an entrepreneur, but the aspect of being ?the salesperson for the community? won out.

?Initially as a senior manager, you're involved in the whole organization and, over time, I just developed a genuine interest and passion for the work municipalities do,? he says. ?It always kept me excited and engaged. After five years, when I was getting to the end of my learning from an economic development perspective, I was considering whether five years was enough of doing that.?

But as the role evolved into one of a Chief Administrative Officer, his interest was maintained, and he stayed with the City of Sudbury for over 16 years until leaving earlier this year after the incumbent Council term became a contentious one.

That chapter closed, he says he still felt ?relatively young? as far as CAOs go and ?wanted another conquest and challenge? that

would keep him engaged for the next five to ten years.

Enter the vacancy left by Neil Garbe who left the position in Aurora for Richmond Hill last year.

Moving from a one tier municipality like Sudbury to a community like Aurora that has Town issues as well as Regional jurisdictions is a bit of a leap. The scale is smaller, service delivery is different and, most importantly, growth is different as well.

?A lot of the agenda will be driven by coping with growth and it is a question of how the municipality wants to shape that growth and where it wants to encourage what kind of growth,? says Mr. Nadorozny. ?Growth is coming, so it is managing the growth that is coming at us. In these early days I would definitely say [growth] is going to be my mandate.

?There is certainly some interest in seeing more businesses coming to the community and to provide more opportunities for people to live and work here, as opposed to just living here and working somewhere else. There is a clear mandate for economic development and for sustainable and acceptable growth in the community.

?I also sense there is a need and desire for Aurora to play a little bigger role or have a higher profile in the GTA to be out there and connected with things that are going on, especially when you look at things the Region, the Province and the Federal Government are going to be pushing with infrastructure funding and so on. My sense is the Mayor and Council, as well as the community, wants to make sure Aurora is front and centre in all the things that are going to come at the community so they have a say in how those infrastructure builds, or whatever, will impact the community as well.?