

Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson announces retirement

After nearly a decade as Chair of the Regional Municipality of York, Wayne Emmerson has announced his retirement, effective Friday, November 29.

Emmerson made his decision known at Thursday's meeting of Regional Council, stating the decision is "very difficult and personal" but came at the right time for him and his family.

"When I first started in politics almost four decades ago, I could not have imagined this incredible journey," said Emmerson in a statement. "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve residents both locally and Regionally, first as a Ward Councillor and then as Mayor in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Emmerson said he was proud of what he and Regional Council have achieved since his appointment to the Chair in 2014, adding that this work is a testament to "our collective commitment and desire to make our communities better places for all."

"I extend my gratitude to my colleagues on Regional Council, both past and present, our Regional staff, the Provincial and Federal governments and the many countless partners who have been a part of this very rewarding experience. As I move toward a new chapter in my life, I look forward to spending more time with family and focusing on personal priorities."

Processes and timelines related to appointing his successor will be brought to Regional Council on November 7.

Historically, the Chair has been appointed by members of Regional Council.

By Brock Weir