

Voter turnout dips below 36 per cent in official results

By Brock Weir

Last Monday, just over 13,000 Aurorans cast their vote for the Town's next Mayor ? but when all was said and done, voter turnout was less than 36 per cent.

With the votes tallied and the final numbers crunched, Aurora's 2014 voter turnout stands at 35.74 per cent, with just 13,267 voters out of an eligible pool of 37,123 bothering to cast their vote.

In the final, official tally released on Monday afternoon, 68.44 per cent of voters cast their vote in favour of incumbent Geoff Dawe, while the remaining 31.56 per cent went with John Gallo.

In this past election, Aurora was broken down into 21 individual polling stations, in addition to an advance poll at the Aurora Seniors' Centre and a special poll serving various nursing homes and seniors residents. Over the 23 total polls, Monday's breakdown reveals Mr. Dawe won handily in the majority of polls, with Mr. Gallo taking the majority of votes in polls at Hartman Public School and Rick Hanson Public School, on Conover Avenue and Mavrinac Boulevard, respectfully, in the northeast quadrant of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street.

Although the numbers were close at a majority of polls on whether or not Aurora should introduce a ward system of voting for Council, strongest support for a ward system could also be found at these two polls on the east side of Town. At Hartman, the ward system easily edged out the status quo ?at large? system 351 votes to 260, while things were a little bit closer at Rick Hanson, with 296 residents voting for change while 272 were happy with the way things are. Votes were neck and neck, however, at Aurora Senior Public School just west of Wellington and Yonge and Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School in Aurora's southwest quadrant.

While a ward system didn't click with voters, one thing that did capture their attention was the second referendum question to reduce the number of Councillors from eight members to six. 64.55 per cent of voters gave that question a resounding ?yes? versus the 35.45 per cent who said ?no.? The ?yes? vote easily captured the win across the board at all 23 polling stations.