

Albano led the polls from the start

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Albano thanked his family, wife Nancy and Susan McPhail for their support and other candidates “for running a fantastic campaign.”

The new councillor said his priorities will be to address local traffic problems, housing and the vacant buildings in downtown Acton, among other issues.

The by-election was needed to fill the council seat left empty after Councillor Mike O’Leary passed away in May.

Albano will now serve alongside fellow Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst, who thanked all of the contenders for putting their names forward in the election and local voters “for choosing an individual who I believe is well aware of the various issues, and who will serve our constituents exceptionally well.”

“For 12 years my dear colleague Mike O’Leary and I worked together for the betterment of our community, often not agreeing, but always supporting what was best for Acton, and for Halton Hills,” Hurst said. “I’m confident that Mike Albano will be comfortable stepping into that teammate role, as well as bringing fresh and experienced perspective to the council table.”

The polls were steady throughout the day on Monday, said Town Clerk Suzanne Jones.

Albano took an early lead on Monday night and maintained it during the third poll. When the final and fourth poll was counted, Albano led, followed by Robert Bedard, 213; Norm Paget, 204; Geoff



Mike Albano receives a kiss of congratulations from his wife Nancy at the Civic Centre Monday night, after learning he won the by-election.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

Maltby, 185; Sue Walker, 179; Terry Jackson, 146 and Waldo Paquete, 1. The results were declared official on Tuesday.

Jones reported that 7,729 residents in Ward 1 were eligible to cast votes at the Acton Arena or Town Hall Centre. There were 417 voters at the advance polls earlier this month.

A total of 1,229 people, or 15.62 per cent, turned out to vote in the by-election— a number that was almost as low as Ward 1’s turnout in the 2010 municipal election, when the mayoral and all Acton councillor seats were acclaimed.

At that time, only 14.98 per cent of Acton voters went to cast a ballot for a Regional Chair and school trustee. Voter turnout numbers

were not available for past by-elections.

Most candidates voiced their disappointment with this week’s low turnout.

“From the amount of people who said they’re going to vote when I was door knocking, I really thought more would’ve turned out,” said Maltby. “Voter apathy is



Newly-elected Ward 1 Councillor Mike Albano (left) receives a hug of congratulations from candidate Sue Walker and a handshake from candidate Norm Paget at the Civic Centre Monday where they had waited for the results to come in.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

what it’s about these days. People aren’t engaged. Unless it’s right in front on their own house, they really don’t care.”

Jackson said she thinks the low turnout can be partly attributed to the by-election falling in the middle of a federal election.

“But the people have spoken, and that’s why democracy works,” she said. “It was a good campaign and I’m proud to have been part of it. I think Mr. Albano will be a good councillor.”

Paget echoed Jackson on all accounts.

“I think Mike will do a great job, and he knows I will always be here to support him,” he said. “This is democracy and it has been exer-

cised. It was an interesting process to go through.”

Walker said if it couldn’t be her in the Ward 1 councillor seat, she considers Albano the next best option.

“I’m happy to see Mike win.

There were a lot of good candidates to pick from, and I think he’s a great choice,” she said. “It was a good race; I learned a lot.”

And Bedard said, “Obviously I’m a little disappointed, but it’s democracy in action and the people have

spoken. I wish Mike all the best going forward.”

At press time, Paquete— a Georgetown resident and former Ward 4 candidate— hadn’t returned *The Independent and Free Press*’ call.



THE RESULTS

- MIKE ALBANO: 298**
- ROBERT BEDARD: 213**
- NORM PAGET: 204**
- GEOFF MALTBY: 185**
- SUE WALKER: 179**
- TERRY JACKSON: 146**
- WALDO PAQUETE: 1**

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