

# Ward 1: Hurst and O'Leary are back to focus on traffic issues

Councillors Jon Hurst and Mike O'Leary will be back representing Ward 1 for the next four years. Hurst topped the polls with 1,659 votes (38 %) followed by O'Leary who brought in 1,315 votes (30%). Robert Bedard came third with 676 votes (15 %), Geoff Maltby, fourth with 509 votes (12%) and David George Hyde with 116 (2 %).

Hurst said he was "really happy" to be re-elected because he loves the job and is glad to see the incumbents coming back.

"I love working with the councillors and town staff is wonderful to work with," said Hurst, adding having competition in the race was healthy. Hurst doesn't agree with people who say councillors should have limits to how

many terms they serve, and is a believer in the value of experience. "There are term limits, it's called an election. It happens every four years," said Hurst.

Traffic, including dump trucks, in Acton was a big issue in the election, said Hurst. "Obviously a bypass is probably the answer," said Hurst, adding it will likely be a long time before that comes to fruition.

O'Leary, said he's "delighted" to continue at his post in Ward 1. "I actually feel humbled that the people seem to think I'm doing a good job," he said. "I'd like to thank the electors in Ward 1 for returning us to office." Issues raised by residents during the campaign that O'Leary plans to continue addressing include

Acton's traffic woes, with extra enforcement needed on Hwy. 7, the state of Fairy Lake and the additional sewer capacity needed in town.

Finishing third was newcomer Bedard. He said while he's obviously disappointed he didn't win, he was happy to be part of the race.

"At least voters had a choice and an opportunity to go to the polls and participate this time," he said, referring to the last municipal election when all Acton candidates were acclaimed. If he runs the next time around Bedard said he wants to figure out a way to increase the level of youth participation and engagement in the democratic process.

Voter apathy and boosting turnout at the polls in general was on candidate Maltby's

mind following Monday's election. "I never did expect to get voted in, but thought I would have been a close third," he said, noting he knocked on up to 700 doors and was well-received by many. "It's very disheartening in that respect." Looking on the positive side, Maltby expressed his gratitude for the 500+ people who had confidence to vote for him and said he plans to run in the next election.

Hyde said he didn't have a chance to run the campaign he'd planned due to "circumstances changing at home." "But it was a good experience," he said. "It let me know what to expect, so maybe I'll run again in four years."

*By Melanie Hennessey  
with files from Lisa Tallyn*

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