

New Regional Chair Carr to meet with colleagues to decide priorities

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Incoming Regional Chairman Gary Carr is gearing up to be a "strong voice" for Halton residents.

The former Halton MP was voted in as the head of regional council Monday night. He secured 45,693 votes while Brent Marshall took home 32,297, Brian Burton, 16,136 and Robert Plaschka, 3,153.

Now, Carr said his first order of business will be to sit down with his new council colleagues and discuss what their priorities are for the coming term.

"I want to work in co-operation with all of the councillors," he said.

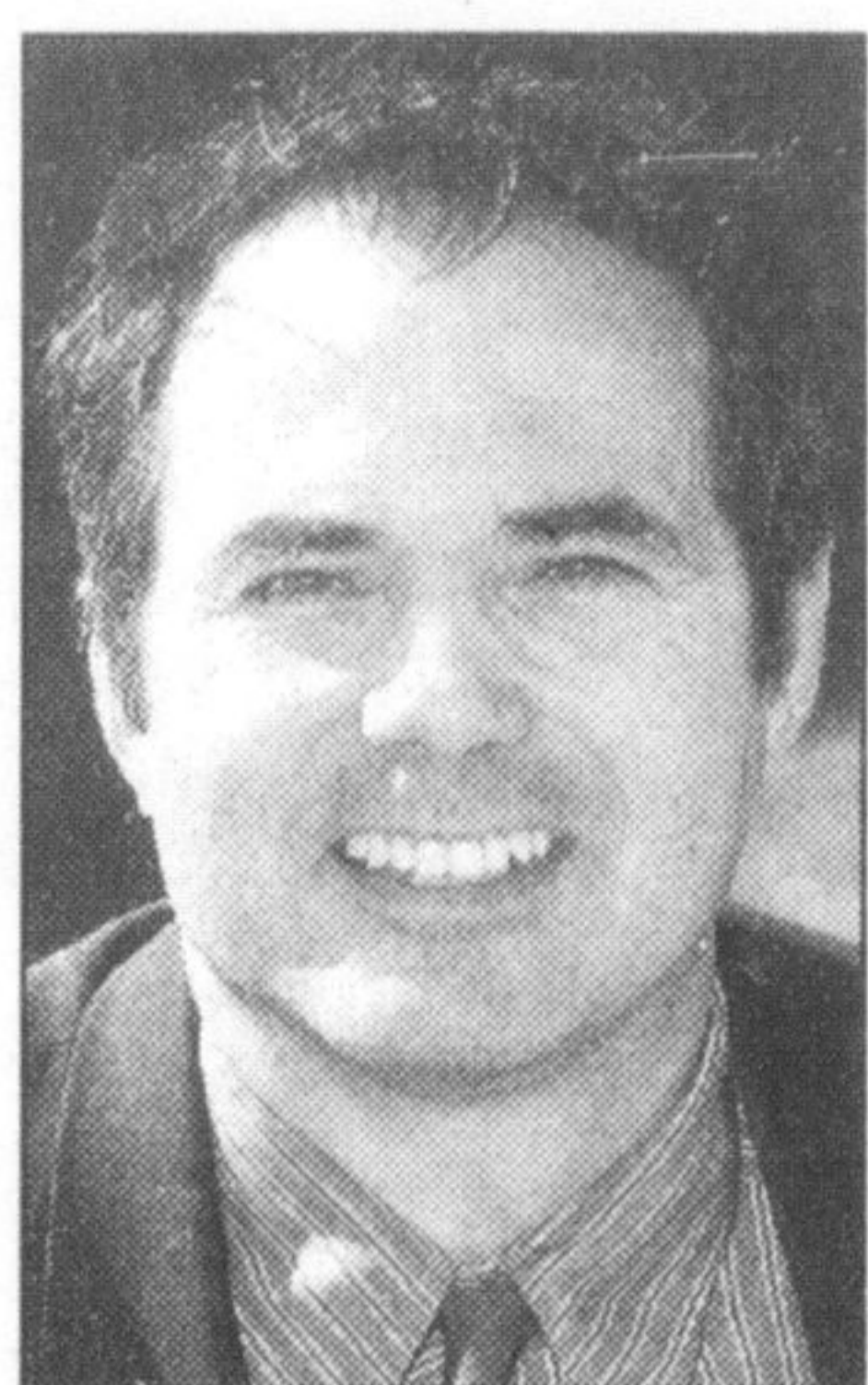
Then, he plans to meet with Halton staff and get to know them better. He noted he already knows many of the

Region's employees from his days as a local MPP.

Carr also has a long list of issues he plans to address as regional chair, such as the proposed energy-from-waste facility.

He pointed out that the existing Halton landfill is expected to last local residents until 2031, and with some enhanced recycling, he feels it could last even longer.

"We shouldn't be looking at it (energy-from-waste) until closer to that date," he said. "We have to be very careful in terms of costs as well. I do not want taxpayers to be saddled with



Gary Carr

financial problems."

He noted he's opposed to Toronto's waste ever making its way into Halton.

The joint Halton Regional Campus plan is also on Carr's agenda. He said while the last council was in favour of it, he wants to see how the new council feels.

In addition, he intends to address the region's rapid growth.

"We should not be growing until we have the services in place," he said.

Carr has an appointment to meet with the president of the Ontario Power Authority today to voice concerns about Pristine Power's proposal to build a gas-fired power generating plant near the intersection of Fifth Line and Main Street.

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