

Election night...the hard part begins

By Jim Irving

RICHMOND HILL — "Our antenna's broken," was the breathless comment of a bearded man as he gazed at the blank screen on the closed circuit video box, which had been set up at the town hall to record election results for mayor, council and school board.

"It's okay, everything's going to be fine," he was quickly reassured by the mustachioed man standing on the table, almost astride the machine, making a few adjustments here and there.

It was 8 p.m. and the machine was supposed to be ready by 8:06 p.m., to await the first results.

It was part of the election coverage set up by York region, in conjunction with Barrie Amateur Radio Club and Newmarket Radio Club.

The results were flashed on the screen as soon as they came in and then a member from the Barrie club — in this case, Grant Saunders — would relay them to another radio operator in

a car outside the building and he would send them on to the Newmarket TV station.

There were "about 16" people at the various polls sending in results.

"Did we have a fuse?" asked the bearded man.

"I think that coffee machine did something," came the reply. "Do we have another extension cord?"

"What about the coffee pot?"

"Well, move it over."

At 8:05 the screen got its first flicker. "Is it shorting out?" someone asked.

"Looks like it."

"Do you want to know what the program access is?"

"No, it's okay."

At 8:06, exactly on cue, the screen

came to life, listing the two candidates for mayor — the incumbent Dave Schiller, and his opponent, Regional Councillor Gord Rowe — plus council and school board hopefuls.

The first results were about 25 minutes away and the screen was ready for them.

Down the street in a vacated store, a sign in the window proclaimed: "Don't forget — Victory party on election night, Masonic Hall — after 10 p.m. Food and drinks."

It was Mayor Schiller's campaign headquarters and inside, the mayor and several of his workers were sitting around awaiting that first call.

It came at 8:26 and a woman, who was to record the results, grabbed it.

"Hello," she said, and then: "Get off the phone, Marilyn. It's your wife, Dave," she said to the mayor, "she wants to know who's winning."

Just four minutes later, the first results came in: Schiller, 51; Rowe, 41.

"Yea," we're ahead," someone shouted. The mayor, who had seemed apprehensive up to then, relaxed slightly.

By 8:38, the town hall set-up had heard from five of 66 polls (including the combined ones) and had Schiller in front 334 to 208.

Up at Rowe's headquarters in the Richmond Hill Plaza, the count stood at 366 to 212 for Schiller at 8:50 p.m., and the mood was tense.

"C'mon, you bloody phones — ring!"

said one of the workers, giving vent to her exasperation.

"Careful of those kiddies next door visiting Santa Claus," she was cautioned in a light aside.

"You from the paper, or something?" another woman asked the reporter who had just come in.

"Yes, from The Liberal," he replied.

"Oh."

"Don't say it like that," the reporter said.

The woman grinned and then tapped the table with her fingers.

By 8:55, the results showed Schiller still in the lead, this time 1,852 to 1,483 after 23 polls.

The announcement was greeted with silence, followed by a note of optimism:

"That's not too big a gap," a man by the window said.

A few minutes later, driving back to the centre of town, a check was made of CFGM to see what had transpired between snowflakes.

But, unless the results were being delivered in a wild western twang, there was nothing new to report.

By 9:30, with 60 of 66 polls heard from, the count was now Schiller, 5,554; Rowe, 3,978.

"I think we've got it," Schiller said, as the figures came in. "Rowe did well there," he added, looking at Ward 5 (Oak Ridges) on the wall map, which showed his opponent racking up 1,137 votes to his own 386.

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Results in brief

Turnout	
10,332 (43.7 per cent of 23,643 eligible)	
Mayor	
Schiller	6,051
Rowe	4,281
Region	
Hancey	7,081
Wainwright	5,420
George	3,730
Ward 1	
Chateauvert	623
Wright	521
DeVita	213
Ward 2	
Duffy	943
Lazenby	539
Ward 3	
Birchall	1,177
Gemmill	426
Ward 4	
Graham	1,453
Henderson	874
Ward 5	
Corcoran	1,059
Gold	647
Ward 6	
Burnie	1,194
Boswell	440
Public school board	
Monroe	5,220
Houghton	4,617
McDiarmid	3,479
Baker	3,475
Irbe	1,066
Separate school board	
Robinson	850
Thompson	488
Taylor	483
Burzillo	418
Greer	372
O'Flaherty	341

Region loses 2 women

NEWMARKET — There will be two less female voices on York Regional Council next year and for awhile it looked as if there would be three less.

Ousted was the outspoken Aurora Mayor, Evelyn Buck, who was dumped in unceremonious fashion by councillor George Timpson, 3,590 to 1,278.

Another equally outspoken mayor, Margaret Britnell of King, had to come back from a near k.o. by her opponent William Foran to win by a mere 331 votes, 2,861 to 2,530.

The other female member who won't be back is East Gwillimbury Mayor Gladys Rolling, who didn't seek re-election. Mrs. Rolling, however, was named to the York police commission for next term.

Elected mayor was Angus Morton. In another fight to the finish, incumbent mayor Dr. George Burrows of Georgina edged lawyer Joe Dales, 3,774 to 3,718, to keep his seat on council.

Burrows took the mayor's job away from Dales in the last election.

When asked if there would be a recount because of the scant 56 votes between them, a region spokesman said no recounts are given unless an error can be proved, or some inconsistency in the counting can be shown.

Councillor Erik Larsen was returned. Other members of regional council: Richmond Hill — Mayor Dave Schiller and councillors Lois Hancey and Lou Wainwright; Markham — Mayor Tony Roman and councillors Alma Walker and Ron Moran; Vaughan — Mayor Garnet Williams and councillor Dave Fraser (accl.); Newmarket — Mayor Bob Forhan (accl.), Ray Twinney; Whitchurch-Stouffville — Mayor Gordon Ratchiff.

Schiller, other incumbents win big vote of confidence



Congratulations, Dave

Gord Rowe, who went for broke after 11 years in municipal politics, offers a smile and a handshake to the man he unsuccessfully challenged, Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller. Gord won big among the home folks in the northern part of town, but Dave held a steady and commanding lead in

other areas to win a second term of office. "Thoroughbreds don't cry," Gord said; and he didn't. He went out in good spirits and with pride in a vigorous campaign and in his army of dedicated volunteer workers.

School board gets 8 newcomers

RICHMOND HILL — There'll be a good sprinkling of new faces with the old on York County board of education next year.

In fact, there'll be eight of them, starting off with two in Richmond Hill. Firefighter Bill Monroe, 43, making

his second bid for a seat, topped the polls with 5,220 votes, well ahead of incumbent Robert Houghton, who had 4,617.

Taking the third seat was housewife Cathy MacDiarmid with 3,479.

The other two candidates, Eric Baker, and Iga Erbe, received 3,475 and 1,066 votes, respectively.

Board Chairman Douglas Allen, and trustee Warren Baillie, other Richmond Hill members, did not run again.

Markham came up with a bit of a surprise in one area when incumbent Gary Adamson was dumped. Adamson, a school teacher, was beaten by newcomer Dave Crombie, 1,947 to 1,887.

Board vice-chairman Donald Cousins retained his seat, getting 2,330 votes and topping the polls in the process.

Bob McMonagle of Thornhill, husband of retiring trustee Chris McMonagle, took over from his wife, getting 1,383 votes.

Incumbent Doreen Quirk was third in the over-all voting, with 1,918.

Markham's fifth member is Steven Taylor of Unionville, who won by acclamation.

Another incumbent, Donald Sim, did

not run again this term.

In Vaughan, Donald Cameron was re-elected with 3,536 votes.

Fellow member Betty Canivet, did not seek re-election.

One of the biggest wins of the entire election was probably that posted by 18-year-old Jim Corcoran, a student at Woodbridge High School.

Corcoran, who ran because of a disenchantment with the present school system, received 2,483 votes, compared to runner-up Dr. Gordon McBean, who had 2,305.

Both King trustees, Margaret Coburn and Betty Zajac, were returned.

Mrs. Coburn had 2,826 votes, and Mrs. Zajac, 2,137.

Vince De Vita, making his first try, had 1,838.

In Newmarket, Trustee Craig Cribar, beat out fellow pastor, Grover Crosby, 2,857 to 2,095.

In East Gwillimbury, Dr. John Denison defeated newsmen Peter Silverman, 1,993 to 1,275 for the seat left vacant by retiring trustee Joy Horton.

Georgina Township candidates William Laird and Keith Hargrave were returned by acclamation.

John Raniowski of Schomberg, one of

By William Lever

RICHMOND HILL — The entire town council — almost — has a mandate for two more years.

And the one who didn't make it, who put an 11-year political career on the line in a vigorous fight for the mayorality, exited like the pro that he is — with good-humored dignity and with a touch of class.

"Dave Schiller's a great mayor," said Gordon Rowe in his concession statement at about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

"There's no question we've got some vastly different ideas, but the people have spoken and I accept it."

Schiller, too, was gracious in victory and complimented Rowe on "a very, very strong race. We did have some very basic differences of opinion, but I firmly believe the policies we've been working on are the correct policies — and apparently the municipality supports them."

Second term

It will be the second term for Schiller, a 39-year-old lawyer-engineer who led a new majority of young newcomers onto council in the 1974 election.

Those same newcomers are all on their way to another term of office, winning easily in Monday's vote, as the

Use of buses is increasing

RICHMOND HILL — The recent changeover in Yonge Street transit services — from TTC to GO buses — appears to have been accepted smoothly and with wide public acceptance.

Monday morning of this week, some 1,300 people used the buses between Richmond Hill and the Finch subway station.

Cops searching for the drunks

RICHMOND HILL — York Regional Police have begun their annual "round-the-clock spot checks in the north and south ends of the region.

The checks will continue through New Year's Eve, as police work to discourage drinking drivers, and to stop vehicles with mechanical defects.

Police are using alert roadside breathalyzer units for the first time.

complete list of incumbents was triumphant at the polls.

They will be joined by former councillor Lou Wainwright, a retired business manager who takes the regional council seat vacated by Rowe.

Re-elected: Lois Hancey, region; Andy Chateauvert, Ward 1; Al Duffy, Ward 2; John Birchall, Ward 3; Marylo Graham, Ward 4; William Corcoran, Ward 5; Mike Burnie, Ward 6.

Duffy, Birchall, Graham and Burnie were the freshmen councillors for the current term, and all were swept back into office without serious challenge.

As expected, Hancey won a decisive endorsement from voters all over town to carry on at the regional council. Come January, she'll be into her 14th year as a Richmond Hill councillor.

Wainwright finished a strong second, and Eric George, also a former councillor, was in third place in the election for two region seats.

Ward 1 close

In Ward 1, Chateauvert was well short of a majority in a three-man race, and Bob Wright ran a strong second. Peter DeVita, a relative newcomer to Richmond Hill, was in third place.

Chateauvert, who had been unopposed in previous elections, commented on his close call: "Acclamations maybe aren't what they're cracked up to be," acknowledging that he may have seemed somewhat remote to voters in the ward.

He pledged to work harder at being in touch with the electorate and said, "For goodness sake, if you have a problem give me a call and let me know."

Ward 2 was retained by Al Duffy with little trouble, although former mayor William Lazenby racked up a sizeable number of votes without really campaigning.

It was a landslide for John Birchall in Ward 3, despite a popular, credible opponent in Ray Gemmill. Birchall has been a consistent door-knocker and newsletter-mailer, apparently well-known and appreciated by his constituency.

Planning head wins

The chairman of council's planning committee, Marylo Graham, won easily over Claude Henderson in Ward 4, which had one of the best percentage turnouts.

Ward 5 stayed with William Corcoran, a pro-development councillor who was challenged by citizen activist Ann Gold in a lively campaign.

And in Ward 6, Mike Burnie trounced sewer protester Lionel Boswell, presumably flushing away the Richvale anti-sewer movement once and for all.

What the ward races lacked in drama was made up for by the mayoralty election; while the vote itself wasn't as close as most observers expected, it did indicate the high level of public interest and a serious division of opinion on how much, how fast Richmond Hill should grow.

Schiller's commitment is to a growth rate of 4 to 4½ per cent and to what he terms "selective" development. And with a new council that's virtually the same as the present one, he can expect sympathetic views from at least a majority of his colleagues.

No bitterness

It was a clear-cut victory for the mayor and his forces, and Rowe acknowledged it without bitterness.

He also acknowledged, quite correctly, that his dedicated campaign staff, headed by his son Ted, were taking the loss much harder than he himself.

And to a handful of those workers, who like Rowe's own daughter is deaf, the candidate had a special message:

While making his statement at Cable 10 TV studios on the election night telecast, Rowe used sign language to communicate his appreciation for their efforts and to comment on the election results.

And just what was he saying? asked Cable 10's commentator, Scott Colbran.

In reply, Rowe smiled broadly and mischievously and said: "I'm not gonna tell you."

Which, at this point, is about the only question left unanswered.



Jim Corcoran...impressive campaign

Inside The Liberal

Skaters featured

Figure skating fun at the Richmond Hill club is the subject of a photo-feature this week. Page C-1.

Oak Ridges Dynes Jewellers Hockey club has a shot at the Ontario Winter Games in North Bay. Sports Page B-1.

This week's index of news and advertising features is:

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