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# Stouffville Tribune

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## Eldred King back as York chairman

SAL BOMMARITO  
Staff Reporter

Eldred King was acclaimed as York Region's chairman after at least two would-be challengers unexpectedly dropped out of the running for the coveted post.

It had been rumored that George Timpson, an Aurora councillor and former mayor, and Bob Featherstonhaugh, the former mayor of East Gwillimbury, would challenge King for the job. At least two members of regional council were also believed to be considering entering the race.

York Region's chairman does not have to be an elected official. King, the former mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, has been the chairman since 1984. The 64-year-old resident of Stouffville is starting his

third term in the post. Following his acclamation, King was presented the chain of office and sworn in by Madame Justice Jean MacFarland of the Ontario Court, General Division. An address by King followed the swearing-in ceremony.

About 150 well-wishers, including friends, family and dignitaries, crammed the regional administration building in Newmarket to witness the ceremony, which featured two members of the York Regional Police Pipe Band and an invocation by the Rev. Lieut. Bill Franco of the Salvation Army.

In his address, King said regional council's priority in the next term is to complete York's official plan.

"In this forum, we must - and we will - build a consensus. This consensus must be based on the interests of the total region, rather than a collection of local and provincial interests," he said.



KING



## Emmerson recount bid rejected

SAL BOMMARITO  
Staff Reporter

The man defeated by Mayor Fran Sainsbury is accusing the town of impropriety in the Nov. 11 municipal election.

Wayne Emmerson, who lost the race for mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville by 243 votes, made the allegation at Tuesday night's council in committee meeting.

"It's the way the election was run, the procedures done by staff and how (the election) was run," said Emmerson, after being grilled by councillors. After a five-minute in-camera session, councillors unanimously rejected Emmerson's recount request. Sainsbury did not vote after declaring a conflict of interest on the item.

"We don't want to set a precedent for future elections," Ward 3 councillor Nick Tatone, who chaired the meeting, said before the vote was taken. "You don't meet any of the requirements," he said, referring to the alternatives for recounts stated in the Municipal Elections Act.

Because Emmerson's request did not meet any of the act's provisions, a resolution by council was required. Council is given the power to hold a recount, at the municipality's expense, if it is deemed to be in the public interest.

The committee adjourned into a special meeting of council following the meeting to pass a resolution on the item, making it official, as advised by chief administrative officer Bob Panizza.

Emmerson was repeatedly asked by council to reveal the details of his request, but he refused to do so.

"If we don't get a recount, I will go to the press (with the details)," he said. Emmerson stated later he is planning to hold a press conference this week to reveal some of those details. He said he has not ruled out taking the town to court.

"I am very much interested in the allegations or reasons," Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice said. "Why do you feel it's in the public interest?" he asked Emmerson.

Emmerson would only say: "There

was a 3.7 per cent of vote difference, 243 votes is not a large number. The public should have a second chance."

Emmerson maintains there is a discrepancy between the total number of individuals who voted and the number of ballots cast for the office of mayor. He also alluded to a discrepancy of 80 votes in Ward 3.

"Anybody can make general statements," said Panizza after the meeting, in reaction to Emmerson's allegations. "What were the discrepancies?" he asked.

Panizza repeated the reason for the discrepancy between the number of people who voted and the number of ballots cast for the office of mayor. He said everyone who cast a ballot on the evening of Nov. 11 didn't necessarily vote for a mayoral candidate. Composite ballots, as were used in last month's election, allowing voters to pick and choose whom they wish to vote for, said Panizza.

"Maybe some people didn't vote for the office of mayor because they didn't like the two candidates," he said.

## Robbery attempt at Stouffville CIBC

Police believe there may be a connection between a bank robbery in Sutton and an attempted bank robbery which occurred Wednesday morning in Stouffville at the CIBC bank.

About 11:20 a.m. a male suspect walked up to a female teller in the Main Street bank and held up a note which indicated he had a gun, said Insp. Ivars Vitins of the York Regional Police. The individual then turned and left the bank.

"She said 'I don't have any money'. He appeared very nervous," Vitins said.

Police are searching for a white male of neat appearance, slim build and five feet six inches tall. The suspect is between 25-30 years of age and was wearing a red and black lumber jacket. The individual smelled of gasoline, said Vitins.

Around noon Wednesday, approximately \$1,300 was taken from the TD Bank on Dalton Road in Sutton after a male suspect produced a note which indicated he had a gun, although no gun was seen, police said.

"We're looking at that. The general description is the same," said Vitins, when asked about a possible connection between the two incidents.

Police there are also searching for a white male, 25 to 30 years of age, five feet eight inches tall with a thin build. The suspect has shoulder-length brown hair and was wearing a baseball cap, grey bomber jacket and blue jeans.

"I have thoughts on the matter, but I'm not in a position to say it is," said a police spokesperson, when asked if the same individual was responsible for both incidents.

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