

New town council sworn in

Mayor has 'won, lost friends' during his political career

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Small-town politics is not all ribbon cuttings and country fairs.

That's the word from newly re-elected Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

"Over the past six years (as mayor), I have made more friends — but I have lost some, too," Emmerson said Tuesday night as the mayor and council who will lead Whitchurch-Stouffville into the new millennium were sworn in at the council chambers.

Emmerson is the sixth mayor to hold office since Whitchurch and Stouffville were amalgamated in 1971. Presiding over the town's affairs for the next three years with the mayor will be councillors Steve Pliakes, Mark Carroll, Peter Dobrich, Cliff Dunkeld, Harry Bowes and Sue Sherban. Bowes is the "new face" on council, after defeating veteran Ward 5 councillor Judy Scala.

During the ceremony, each elected representative thanked family members and residents for their support and expressed their commitment to respond to their constituents' concerns.

Peter Dobrich, who won in Ward 3 by only two votes after a recount held on Monday, had the audience laughing with his "I'm glad I voted for myself"

Pomp and circumstance were provided at the inaugural council meeting by local bagpiper David Baxter, whose rendition of "A Man's a Man for A' That" ushered in the solemnly dressed and boutonniere municipal representatives. Town crier Marcel Bossi gave the welcoming address, local resident Lorne Boadway led the singing of "O Canada" and the prayer was offered by the Rev. Lou Geense of the Stouffville

Missionary Church.

Council members were sworn in by barrister and solicitor Michael Bigioni and Mayor Wayne Emmerson received his chain of office and gavel from town clerk Michele Kennedy — to start his third term of office.

Aside from ongoing and upcoming issues, the great unknown facing this council is whether and when amalgamation of York Region municipalities will occur.

"The next three years are crucial," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said in his inaugural address. "Council will have to make decisions that will affect each and every one of us."

Noting that he's lived in Whitchurch-Stouffville all his life, the mayor said, "I hope to lead council in a direction to give us peace of mind." He lauded his previous council's accomplishments, and urged council and residents to work together for "the betterment of all."



Town clerk Michele Kennedy puts the chain of office on re-elected Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson at inaugural meeting of town council on Tuesday night.



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