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Lone council rookie Bartley says he's team player

BY JIM MASON
Staff Writer

Richard Bartley has sold a GM plant full of vehicles and earned a wall jammed with plaques during more than 20 years in car sales at Williamson's in Uxbridge.

He sold himself this fall and earned a

spot on Whitchurch-Stouffville council. The life-long Stouffville resident was the only newcomer elected to the six-member council Monday night.

The father of three won the Ward 5 seat in northeast Stouffville vacated by retiring councillor Harry Bowes.

Mr. Bartley received 816 votes to John

Relphs 468, Maureen Wood's 354 and John White's 190.

Re-elected were Ken Ferdinands (Ward 1), Phil Bannon (Ward 2), Clyde Smith (Ward 3), Susanne Hilton (Ward 4) and Rob Hargrave (Ward 6).

After knocking on countless doors and talking to hundreds of residents, Mr.

Bartley had a positive feeling about Monday night's election, but was still "overwhelmed and excited" when he was voted in as Ward 5 councillor.

Being a team player is what it's all about for him. In business or in hockey, you play as a team, the rec league goalie said, "or you don't succeed".

He's looking forward to tackling issues such as traffic congestion, which is a major concern for residents.

He is also strongly in favour of "a proper theatre" and believes the new council will be a strong advocate for the arts.

The neophyte politician is well aware the first few months in office will be a learning experience.

"I'm looking forward to working with the people in Whitchurch-Stouffville and excited about the new team I now belong to," he said.

Mr. Bannon was in a see-saw battle all night.

"Totally unexpected," he said of his race with 24-year-old Justin Altmann.

"We were in shock," he said from his Ballantrae home, where he was celebrating with his family and supporters.

Although Mr. Altmann took the lead early, Mr. Bannon ended up winning with 1,080-890.

He has the support of his community, Mr. Bannon said, and the ward and its predominantly rural issues will be represented strongly on council.

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- Appointments for Board of Directors
- Refreshments
- Volunteer of Year Award

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