

'No prejudice' in video, Altmann says

Standing in front of 97 acres of corn fields, Justin Altmann looks directly into the camera and asks: "Do you want 10 to 15,000 people visiting our town a day? Do we want over 400 tractor trailer loads a day coming across Stouffville Road, down (Hwy.) 48 and across to Hoover (Park Drive)?"

In the June 9, 2014 YouTube video entitled "press release", Altmann is referring to the original site Emmerson thought would be home to the wholesale trade centre.

It is now slated for the former Southwire building on Main Street.

In the video, Altmann calls the potential facility an "all-Asian trade centre" twice.

As the camera pans out, Altmann is seen standing between three blow up dragons.

"I wasn't being prejudice against a race," Altmann told The Sun-Tribune less than 48 hours after being elected mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville, when asked about the video.

"Asian trade centre, that's the culture ... that is what they said was coming. ... It's straight fact," he told The Sun-Tribune.

"I don't want to be Markham. ... I want us to have our own identity," he told The Sun-Tribune this week.

Outgoing Mayor Wayne Emmerson's reaction?

Without seeing the video but being aware of its contents, he told The Sun-Tribune yesterday: "it's very disappointing he would do this".

- Sandra Bolan

Calandra not surprised by changes on council

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Hit the books and learn everything you can about the job.

That is Paul Calandra's advice to the newly elected mayor of Whitchurch-Stouffville - Justin Altmann.

In 2008, the Oak Ridges-Markham MP was in a similar situation to Altmann - he won the MP seat without experience in lower level government.

Altmann tried, unsuccessfully for the Ward 2 seat (2006) and the mayor's chair (2010).

"I wish I could say it will be easy," Calandra said, admitting it took two years for him to be comfortable and confident with his new position.

The MP suggested Altmann seek assistance from the incumbents Ken Ferdinands (Ward 1) and Rob Hargrave (Ward 6).

"I'm optimistic we'll have a good council that will represent the people. I will work with them," he said.

Calandra was not surprised Altmann came

out the victor Monday night, noting there was a mood developing in town, especially amongst the newer residents, that change was wanted.

"The ultimate surprise of the evening and a pleasant surprise, was the voter turnout," he said.

What Calandra also liked about this election was the battle amongst candidates on the issues, ideas and policies.

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"This was a very fun, interesting campaign to watch," he said. "The candidates went at it hard and that was awesome."

"I guess it's a lot more fun when you're not involved in it," he said.

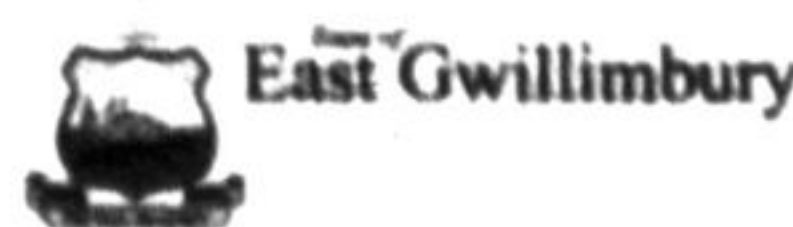


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