

Editorial ? Kolb owed plenty of thanks

There were many words of tribute last Thursday, and we suspect there will be many more in the months to come, directed at Emil Kolb.

Kolb announced at the start of last Thursday's council meeting that he will not be standing for another term as Chair and CEO of Peel Region. While that is a loss for the Region, for he will certainly be missed, we all have to accept the obvious fact that he has made his contributions and is entitled to move on with the next part of his life.

Kolb was, and still is, an active farmer in Albion. He got involved in local politics many years ago, earning himself a seat on the first Regional council and eventually becoming Mayor of Caledon, while still holding his position at the Region.

It is easy to look at becoming Chairman of the Region (which is what the position was called in 1991 when he took it on) as a logical progression, but it really was a lot more, and has grown considerably in the last 22 years.

Today, Kolb has responsibilities that still involve the growing community of Caledon, as well as the sixth and ninth largest cities in Canada. That is an enormous amount to keep track of, and Kolb has done it admirably, while remaining close to his roots.

As Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell pointed out in her remarks last Thursday, ?Emil gets up at 4 in the morning to tend to the farm.? And through it all, the community has been well served by this man.

?Never underestimate Emil, because he's very clever,? Mississauga Councillor Pat Mullin observed. ?This man can wheel and deal.? In due time, the Region will find another person to occupy Kolb's office.

Finding someone for the job will be easy. Finding someone to replace Kolb will be another matter.