

McClure easily holds on to his Ward 2 council seat.



GordMcClure

By Bill Rea

Yevgenia Casale gave it her all over the last several months, but beating an incumbent is never easy.

She learned that the hard way in last week's municipal elections, as Gord McClure held on to his seat as area representative for Ward 2 on Caledon council.

McClure ran into very little trouble winning a third term on council, taking 2,230 of the 3,070 votes cast, according to official results released earlier this week by the Town of Caledon. They gave the incumbent 72.64 per cent, to 27.36 for Casale.

Despite the margin of victory, McClure said he wasn't taking anything for granted.

"I wasn't sure, but I made it again," he said. "I'm always nervous. It's good to be nervous. You never know in an election."

McClure has an reputation for speaking his mind, and he thanks that helped at the polls.

"I'm consistent," he said. "I always say what I think. I think people like that."

He also reflected on the changes to council in light of the election.

"It's going to be different," he observed.

He was pleased that Councillor Allan Thompson was successful in his bid to be mayor.

"Allan's going to be a great mayor," he said. "He's going to be around for a long time, I think."

"Congratulations to the winners," Casale said a couple of days after the election. "I wish them well."

She also confessed she was surprised at the results, considering the amount of time she spent campaigning. She also said there seems to be a great disconnect between the amount of money people pay in taxes and their understanding of what they're paying for.

"I could not believe how many people said to me, 'You are the first person who's knocked on my door. You've got my vote,'" she added.

"I think it's sad that people don't take the time to research," Casale remarked, observing she got three phone calls from voters and less than 20 emails during the campaign.

Casale stressed she was not knocking the winners, or any other candidate who stepped up to serve the community. But she commented that many voters think it's up to the candidates to connect them with the issue, but a lot of them don't read the material the candidates issue, or go to meetings.

"When is the onus on the voter?" she asked. "This is your money. What are you spending it on?"

"There's an appalling lack of ownership the people take," Casale added.

"It's a partnership between the residents and the people who step forward to serve the community," she said. "Everybody has a role to play in the success of the community."

McClure showed his strength at just about all the polls, including the advance poll at the Margaret Dunn Library in Valleywood.

Casale's best polls was at SouthFields Village, where she lives. She collected 348 votes there, good for 44.79 per cent).