

Mezzapelli returned to second term as councillor for Bolton



Rob Mezzapelli

By Bill Rea

Things were pretty consistent across the board in last week's municipal election, at least as far as the Ward 5 area council race was concerned.

In the end, incumbent Rob Mezzapelli emerged in the lead of the five-way race, taking a second term on Caledon council.

He received 2,527 votes in the race, good for 48.54 of the total

Kevin Junor, who finished just nine votes behind Mezzapelli in the 2010 campaign, didn't do quite as well this time out. He got 1,540 (29.58 per cent). He was followed by Trudy Valier with 729 (14 per cent), Adam Romasco with 246 (4.73 per cent) and Andrei Belousov with 164 (3.15 per cent).

'I thought I fared quite a bit better than I did in 2010,' Mezzapelli remarked in the aftermath of the election.

He added that he thought he benefitted at the polls by 'keeping true to my platform over four years,' commenting it showed consistency. 'I think the public felt that, and I think that was reflected in the votes I received.'

Mezzapelli didn't seem too worried about the new make up of council.

'Collectively, we're going to make sure that we do the work the community expects of us,' he commented. 'We were elected to do a job, and that's what we have to do.'

'Democracy played out,' was how Junor reacted a couple of days after the vote, as he reflected that people voted for who they thought would best represent them.

He also said there were some parts of the election overall that he wasn't expecting, such as so many new Caledon representatives on Peel Regional council.

'That was a bit of a surprise,' he said, adding he wasn't expecting to see the area council ranks left in tact, as they were.

Junor admitted the results were a 'bit of a disappointment.'

'Rob was very prepared,' he said, adding he got a rather late start in the campaign. 'People spoke very clearly that he was the individual they want to represent Bolton.'

Junor wasn't ready to commit himself as to whether he would run again.

'I'll never say no, but I'll have to put a lot of thought into it,' he said.

'I'm going to wish everybody good luck,' Valier commented after the election.

She also said she was disappointed with the voter turnout.

'Does this mean that people here in Bolton don't really care about what happens?' she wondered. 'Obviously the people who came out to vote made their vote count.'

Valier also urged residents to make sure they raise their concerns with their councillors.

'What's what they're there for,' she declared. 'To help all of us.'

'It was a good experience for me,' Romasco remarked, adding he'll be better prepared the next time. 'I will definitely give it a go in four years.'

'I was surprised,' Belousov said of the results.

He said he had spoken to hundreds of people and detected a desire for change. ?But we still have the same area councillor. I am disappointed with the result.?

Belooussov also said being involved in the political process is difficult, but necessary.

?It's like going to the dentist,? he remarked. ?You don't go to the dentist because you enjoy it. You think you need it.?

Mezzapelli was ahead at every poll, with his best performance at St. John the Baptist Elementary School, where he took 55.71 per cent of the vote. Junor's best showing was at Albion-Bolton Community Centre, where he collected 37.19 per cent. That was also Valier's best poll, at 14.96 per cent.