

## Shaughnessy upsets Paterak to take Regional seat



BarbShaughnessy

By Bill Rea

Barb Shaughnessy is on her way to Caledon council.

Shaughnessy emerged on top of a three-way race in last week's municipal elections to be Ward 1's representative on Peel Regional council, upsetting veteran incumbent Richard Paterak and former councillor Jim Pattison to take the seat.

According to the official numbers released by the Town Monday, Shaughnessy collected 1,442 votes, good for 49.5 per cent of the total. Paterak was some 300 votes behind with 1,103 (37.86 per cent), while Pattison had 368 (12.63 per cent).

"I was thrilled," Shaughnessy declared the following morning, commenting that she believes her message registered with people.

"There are a lot of new people in Caledon; a lot of new residents, and I got them excited."

Shaughnessy added she didn't think the victory really sunk in election night, recalling she felt tired by exuberant.

"Today, I think it finally sunk in," she said the following day.

She said getting her message before the voters was the key to the win.

"I was calm," she said. "I got out with my message, and the message resonated."

"I got out there and I was visible," she said, adding she was not really surprised at the result.

With the exception of Mayor-elect Allan Thompson, Caledon contingent at the Peel Regional council table in the next term is going to be all women. Shaughnessy expressed the hope they will bring a different perspective to the discussions.

Paterak put in an appearance in the council chambers at Town Hall Election Night.

Results were very slow coming into the chambers, but the phone messages he was getting were not encouraging.

"I believe I'm lost," he commented.

Paterak said he plans retire, noting the election came the day after his 71st birthday.

"I had a good run ? 17 years," he said. "I enjoyed, not every minute, but a good part of it."

Repeated attempts to obtain comments from Pattison were unsuccessful.

Paterak showed some strength at the polling station in Inglewood, collecting 301 of the 638 votes cast there (good for 47.18 per cent). But he was only 13 better than Shaughnessy, who led at every other poll. She was especially strong at Alton Library, where she got 57.56 per cent of the total. That was Paterak's weakest poll, where he only had 26.61 per cent. It was also Pattison's strongest station, with 15.83 per cent.