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Anderson gets 4th term as Regional Chair

Winning all but six of the 28 votes from Regional Councillors, Roger Anderson was successful in seeking his fourth term as Regional Chair, the top position in the Region.

The vote took place last Wednesday, December 8th, at the beginning of the first Regional Council meeting of this new term of office.

Anderson was challenged for the seat by former Clarington Mayor John Mutton, and Bowmanville resident Louis Bertrand.

Mutton's nomination at the Regional Council meeting was made by Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster, who praised Mutton for his leadership skills and his ability to get things done while he was Mayor of Clarington. According to Foster, under Mutton's leadership, council and staff pulled together to get things done. "We had a vision and a sense of accomplishment," he stated. "We wanted to get things done, and got a lot done," Foster said.

In his allotted five minutes, Mutton told councillors how Clarington, under his leadership, became one of the most financially healthy municipalities in Ontario. "I plan to bring the same team-building and team-leadership skills to Durham Region Council," Mutton said.

Mutton received four votes in his bid for the Chair's seat.

Clarington Councillor Willie Woo made the nomination for Louis Bertrand. While Bertrand had been in the council chambers numerous times over the past four years speaking against the incinerator, Woo told councillors that Bertrand is concerned about many issues facing the Region besides the incinerator.

When Bertrand had his opportunity to speak, he said the incinerator issue was a glaring example of a fundamental issue, that each community in the Region could have an unwanted project foisted on them. "The fundamental issue I stand for is not incineration," Bertrand said, "it is democracy."

Bertrand received two votes.

Anderson made several commitments to council in his address as the newly appointed Chair of the Region of Durham. He promised that the Clerk would present a report within the next few weeks regarding how the Regional Chair would be appointed in the future.

The method of how to select future Regional Chairs was presented as a referendum question on the municipal ballot in October. While close to 80 percent of those who voted Regionwide wanted a change in the method currently used, the results were not binding as voter turnout was less than 50 percent.

"I firmly believe we have to deal with this," Anderson stated. "We will move ahead on this issue once and for all."

Anderson also agreed to look at the unbalanced representation of council members from the Region's eight municipalities. Based on population, some municipalities, such as Ajax and

Clarington with three members each, are under-represented on the Council, while Oshawa is over-represented with eight councillors. "By dealing with these matters early in the term, the process for implementing these decisions can be done long before 2014," Anderson stated.

Mary Novak was the lone Clarington councillor who voted for Anderson to be the next Regional Chair.