

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING

Wayne Emmerson, Chairman and CEO, The Regional Municipality of York

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Thank you.

Welcome – Chaplain Dr. Edwards, Regional Solicitor Joy Hulton, Sergeant Grant Rutherford and Sergeant Jessica Miller, members of Regional Council, ladies and gentleman.

Thank you to members of Council for your support and allowing me to be your Chairman for this term of Council. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you on your election.

A special thank you to Mayor David Barrow and Mayor Virginia Hackson for nominating me and for your support.

I'd also like to take a moment and introduce former Members of Regional Council that are here this evening:

From the Town of Aurora

Geoffrey Dawe

From the Town of Georgina

John Rogers
Naomi Davison

From the City of Markham

Carole Bell
Gord Landon
Stan Daurio
Ralph Aselin
Nirmala Armstrong

From the Town of Newmarket

Tom Taylor
Tony Van Bynen

From the Town of Richmond Hill

Al Duffy
Brenda Hogg
Vito Spatafora



From the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Fran Sainsbury
Sue Sherban

I would also like to recognize our Police Chief Eric Jolliffe and our three Deputy Police Chiefs, Tom Carrique, Andre Crawford and Robertson Rouse.

I want to thank my family and friends for their support and for attending tonight.

To my wife Debra of 43 years, thank you for your support and being there for me in the good times and the not-so-good times.

To our two sons Mark and Derek their wives, Jennifer and Karen for their understanding and support over my political career.

I can't forget to mention our grandson Scott who is here tonight.

Thank you to Lina Bigioni, Chief of Staff and all those that have helped her prepare for another great event. It's always a first class event when Lina is looking after it.

Lina has been a big part of the Region for over 20 years. She is well respected and loved by many. I honestly don't know what I would do without her assistance and guidance. [She is] a person who Council and staff can go to and a friend to many.

Municipal Government is the most important Government. It affects the lifestyle of the people the most.

We had a great four years and I feel the next four years will be just as good.

We have a few issues that we need to continue to work on.

Our debt will need to be top of mind at budget time.

The Yonge Subway [is] our most needed transit project. We will continue to ask the Province and Federal Government for the funding to make it operational by 2031 or sooner.

An integrated fare system is a must for this term of council. We will be waiting to see if the Province will do this and upload all transit in the G.T.A.

Housing rental is a high priority. Our DC referral and funding from the Federal and Provincial Government will help. We hope to reduce our wait list. We can't do it alone on the property tax.

We need the Federal Government to support our commitment to Broadband so we all can be connected. We should be at the table and partner for housing and broadband – but not the main funder.

Council has always been supportive of the environment and I am sure this Council will continue the support.

Provincial legislation will help make producers fully responsible for the end of life management of their products and packaging in our blue boxes.

Our own new facility in York Region [will] handle our green bin (organics) [and] will help with our costs now and in the future.

We need to have the Province make a decision on our two very important Environmental Assessments: the southeast collector outfall pipe and the Upper York Sewage System.

I think the Province is going to relook at the Growth Plan. Our Municipal Comprehensive Review might be delayed; however, I am confident that we will have it completed early in 2020. There will be many public meetings for the public to have their say.

We will continue to work with all nine municipalities to encourage more office, industrial and commercial businesses. We will need more jobs as we continue to grow.

We will continue to build roads and keep our assets in good repair. Our residents can be assured Regional Council will continue to provide funding for our Community and Health programs. We will maintain our high quality of Water and Wastewater systems.

Under the leadership of Chief Jolliffe, Deputy Chiefs Tom Carrique, Andre Crawford and Robertson Rouse, York Regional Police will continue to keep our communities safe.

Finally, I want to thank all York Region staff for their hard work each and every day. Making York Region always great!

Thank you to CAO Bruce Macgregor and the Senior Management Team for their great presentations and very detailed reports [helping] Regional Council make informed decisions on all issues.

I feel the Province will make changes to our Region and local communities. All I ask is that we are at the table so we can be part of the decision making process. We are part of the solution not part of the problem.

Exciting times [are] ahead [and] I know this Council is up to the challenge.

Thank you.

Now, I would like each member to say few words.

Beginning on my left:

Mayor Frank Scarpitti from the City of Markham was first elected to Regional Council in 1985 and this is his 10th term on this Council. Mayor Scarpitti has served 30 years on this Council, making him the longest-serving member in York Region's history.

Mayor Steve Pellegrini from the Township of King has served on Regional Council for the past eight years and is entering his third term of office.

Mayor John Taylor from the Town of Newmarket has represented Newmarket on this Council for the last 12 years as Regional Councillor. This will be his fourth term and his first as Mayor.

Mayor Tom Mrakas from the Town of Aurora is starting his first term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Gino Rosati from the City of Vaughan has been a Member of this Council for 16½ years. This will be his fourth consecutive term.

Regional Councillor Jim Jones from the City of Markham is beginning his fifth term on Regional Council, having served the previous 15 years.

Regional Councillor Joe DiPaola from the Town of Richmond Hill is starting his first term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Linda Jackson from the City of Vaughan has previously served one term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Robert Grossi from the Town of Georgina has previously served on this Council for 17 years. This will be his sixth term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Carmine Perrelli from the Town of Richmond Hill is beginning his first term on Regional Council.

Now turning to my right and your left:

Mayor David Barrow from the Town of Richmond Hill has been on Regional Council for six terms and a total of 21 years.

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua is entering his third term as Mayor of City of Vaughan and has served on Regional Council for eight years.

Regional Councillor Jack Heath from the City of Markham is beginning his fifth term and has been on Regional Council for 15 years.

Mayor Virginia Hackson of the Town of East Gwillimbury is beginning her third term and has served on Regional Council for eight years.

Regional Councillor Mario Ferri from the City of Vaughan has served on Regional Council for a total of 11 years. This will be his fourth term.

Mayor Margaret Quirk from the Town of Georgina is beginning her second term on Regional Council.

Mayor Iain Lovatt from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is beginning his first term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Joe Li from the City of Markham is beginning his third term on Regional Council, having served the previous eight years.

Regional Councillor Tom Vegh from the Town of Newmarket is beginning his first term on Regional Council.

Regional Councillor Don Hamilton from the City of Markham is also beginning his first term on Regional Council.

Thank you. Now I would like to introduce our Chief Administrative Officer, Bruce Macgregor.

I would ask that members of Regional Council remain in the Chambers for the official group photo. We will need a few minutes to clear the chairs in the centre.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Enjoy the evening.