

**Mayor Van Bynen Inaugural address
Newmarket Council Chambers
Monday, December 1, 2014**

Good evening to our guests, staff and Council. Welcome to the inaugural meeting of Newmarket's 2014 – 2018 Council.

To begin, I would like to acknowledge & express my appreciation to:

- Royal Canadian Legion Milton Wesley Branch 426 – Colour Guard
- Mr. John Webster (Town Crier)
- Mr. Randy Egan (Piper)
- Justice Peter Bourque
- Pastor Garry James - Valleyview Alliance Church
- Terry Russell (RCMP Constable)
- Sydney Stevenson (Singer)
- And the Pickering College Choir

A special thank you to each of you..., this is a special moment for all of us and your contributions add a rich flavor of tradition to make this important ceremony **memorable**.



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I would also like to recognize and thank

- Andrew Brouwer (Our Town Clerk)
- Pat Noble (My Executive Assistant)
- And all Town staff who were involved in the coordination of tonight's activities.

As well, I would also like to welcome our special guests,

- MP Lois Brown
- MPP Chris Ballard
- Mayor Geoff Dawe, Town of Aurora
- Former Mayor Tom Taylor.
- President & CEO Newmarket Tay Hydro - Paul Ferguson,

I would like to invite comments from Members of Council, beginning with Regional Councillor Taylor.

We gather tonight to celebrate, both individually and collectively.

Each member of Council can rightfully mark the end of a successful election campaign with family and friends.

But more importantly, as a community – and as a country - we celebrate democracy and the tragic events of recent weeks in Ottawa and in Quebec, have reinforced how privileged we are..., to live in a free society, and how profoundly grateful we are..., that brave men and women risk their lives each day, to allow us to celebrate as we do tonight.

It is an honour to stand before you with a renewed mandate to lead the transformation of our community into a future that offers the promise of **positive change**, growth and opportunity.

I congratulate our returning colleagues and our two new councillors on their success in this election.

To my returning colleagues, I believe we have laid a solid foundation for the transformation of our community to build the “New Newmarket”..., a **compassionate** community that has an eye on our **social** balance sheet..., as much as our financial balance sheet.

Our 2010 - 2014 term of office was a time for insight and foresight.

Many of the projects that are currently underway are part of a shared vision to “Renew Newmarket”, to build a vibrant, sustainable healthy community.

It was a time when we committed to doing things that looked to the interests of future generations, in spite of the short-term challenges they presented.

Among our commitments, we undertook:

- To implement LED lighting to save energy costs and reduce our environmental footprint;
- To put our municipal buildings – namely their roofs - to work with solar panels to generate income for our community;
- To strengthen our Asset Replacement Funding;
- To update our development charges to ensure we have the money to build the infrastructure we need;
- To consult extensively with our community about the redevelopment of Davis Drive & Yonge Street
- And also to understand our community needs in developing our Recreation Master Plan.

to name but a few.

These initiatives are about protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural heritage, while continuing to manage growth and sustain our sense of community.

They will provide benefits for the decades ahead and for the generations who will follow us.

Four years from now, I believe we will look back and realize that this next term of Council will also be one of the most important in Newmarket's history.

In the election just concluded, voters delivered a clear message.

They expect Council to focus on the important issues facing our town, to debate those issues fully and vigorously and to do so professionally and without regard to personalities or personal agendas.

The task for this Council – which we eagerly accept – is to build upon the achievements of past Councils as we face the challenges that lie ahead.

- Our residents want their money spent wisely.
- They want recreational facilities that are accessible, well managed and affordable.
- They want to live in a safe, healthy community that is rich in arts and culture.
- They look to our leadership to identify, highlight and address what the future holds for our community.

In doing so we will face challenges, and opportunities, with difficult decisions to make, and we must always have the best interests of our overall community at heart.

In saying this... **the reality** that our Council and our residents **must acknowledge**, is that Newmarket as we know it today is changing.

Not everyone is comfortable with that reality..., and that message has been made clear to us.

But it does not mean we should not embrace change, in the words of the late John F. Kennedy “Change is the law of life and **those who look only to the past or the present...**, are certain to miss the future.”

So, our challenge going forward is to not just to manage, but to lead Newmarket’s **inevitable transformation**, so that we are able to be forward-thinking..., while at the same time remain mindful of our town’s rich heritage and traditions.

In looking to the future,

Our town must be well connected to the rest of the world in this digital age.

I am looking forward to the “GigaBit” Broadband pilot project to explore the ways we can bring high-speed internet to Newmarket.

Our residents should be able to live, play and work locally, and so we will need to focus on creating a more robust local economy.

To achieve this we must build upon our partnerships with Southlake Regional Health Centre, York University; Seneca College, VentureLabs, Newmarket Hydro, IBM; Cisco Systems, Tridel, and our many Chamber of Commerce business members through more projects like **CreateIT**, the **Innovation Team** and trade missions to Global Markets

At the same time, by enhancing our relationships with our neighbours, we will take the Northern Six Municipal Partnership to a new level to achieve even better value for the residents of all of our municipalities.

And, I know, we all agree that everyone should be proud to call Newmarket their home, and so, we will need to **continue** to deliver exceptional services and maximum value for taxes.

Finally, we all know that by 2051 Newmarket **will be required** to accommodate an additional 33,000 residents and 32,000 more jobs.

Our challenge is to manage this growth to create a vibrant and livable community as our future unfolds.

It means also that we need to actively pursue reform in the Planning Act and at the OMB.

I invite everyone to join us in this journey.

I am proud that we are so ably supported by our administrative staff, under the leadership of our CAO, Bob Shelton, and our Commissioners, Anita Moore, Ian McDougall and our latest addition, Peter Noehammer.

This is a team that is committed to providing excellent service to our community with a continuing commitment to making Newmarket even better.

We share a determination to do what is right for the people of Newmarket.

The example that is set by our Council...and our staff is one of hard work and dedication.

During the past election campaign, a lot was said about the state of our town.

Let there be no doubt – I am extremely proud of Newmarket..., our residents..., our staff..., AND our municipal government...,

and tonight I pledge that over the next four years..., our Council will work diligently and productively..., to justify the faith the voters have placed in us.

Together, we will give Newmarket residents every reason to be proud, not only of their town, but also of their municipal government.