Collingwood's Rick Lloyd looks back fondly on political career

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Rick Lloyd has spent the last quarter century in municipal politics.

"I absolutely enjoyed my tenure in politics," he said. "I would encourage young people to get out and really take an interest in it."

Lloyd spent the last four years as deputy mayor after serving 20 years as a councillor. Lloyd was defeated by Brian Saunderson in the deputy mayor race, receiving 3,245 votes.

"To the new council, we're in good hands," he said. "I think it's going to be a dynamite next four years."

Looking back at his career, Lloyd said there were a few decisions that he would have changed.

He said the decision to purchase the Sprung structures for recreational facilities is something he would have done differently.

"I would have went out and looked for RFP's," he said. "I felt we made the right decision but I still would have taken that extra step. We didn't do anything wrong."

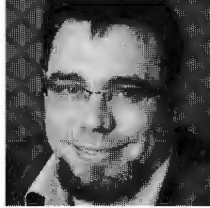Lloyd said he'll miss the fellowship at the table and assisting residents.

I really enjoy helping people," he said.

He said the past council has done a lot of good for the community but he believes the decision to close down the rail line will help Collingwood in the future. Council pulled funding for the Barrie Collingwood Railway in 2011.

"Shutting the train down but continuing to maintain the rail line (was a good decision)," he said. "I do see some day a commuter train coming to Collingwood."

On Monday, Lloyd wished staff well and congratulated those who were elected.

"To each and everybody who ran in the community," he said. "Just to put your name forth and be willing to dedicate the time it takes to be on council, that, in my opinion deserves a thank you from the community."

by **John Edwards**

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