

Rideau Carleton Raceway decision big ticket issue: Thompson

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Serving the residents of Osgoode and being a representative of the nation's capital has been an honour, Thompson said.

During his 31 years in office he oversaw the development of a number of local institutions, from the Greely library to the soccer complex on Mitch Owens Road and a number of housing developments, including the Osgoode Care Centre long-term care facility. Several community associations and groups sprung up under his leadership, including the Osgoode Youth Association (OYA).

From campaigning against amalgamation in 1998 and 1999 to sitting as the rural south's representative on the very city council he fought joining, Thompson says he has thrown his efforts into serving rural residents.

He championed the creation a city rural af-

fairs office and also a rural and agricultural issues committee, of which he currently sits as chairman. He was key in preventing OC Transpo from expanding service into his ward. He lists establishing a network of multi-use pathways, helping establish toll-free long-distance phone calls into the city from the rural area and getting school crossing guards in Metcalfe – one of the first locations in a rural area – among his achievements.

“These are all small things but in the communities, those are big items,” he said.

But the biggest-ticket issue in his three decades in office was easily the city's decision to only support a new casino location at the Rideau Carleton Raceway.

“The casino I think is very critical for the rural area,” he said. “(There are) probably about 900 people whose livelihood depends on that.”

