

Port Hope

Port Hope Council Candidates



Municipal Elections

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Give one or more specific things related to the New Nuclear Power Generator proposed for Wesleyville you will want to see happen before the end of your term on council?

Given OPG's own timeline, I don't expect site construction to begin this term but technology selection could plausibly be settled, and I want binding provisions locked in before it is. My priority is understanding the needs of residents closest to the site and securing protections for their interests and the Municipality's: farmland setbacks on all sides of the site, protection for Wesleyville village, agriculture-business land offsets, and commitment from OPG/Hydro One that unused land would be turned into public greenspace and trails. I'd push for independently commissioned assessments of environmental (lake and marshland), transportation, housing-market, and economic impacts on surrounding communities. I want negotiated agreements with OPG covering construction-phase impacts on local businesses, plus guarantees for local jobs, supplier contracts, and investment in our schools. I intend to ensure that the Municipality is involved early and often in the project, such that any benefits for the Municipality can be understood and secured prior to decisions progressing.

How would you characterize the Port Hope Area Initiative clean up, giving any steps necessary to address concerns you may raise?

The PHAI has strayed enough from its original promise that it now raises concerns about public trust and transparency. Because the initiative is federally run, I would not overstate the control council has; instead, I would focus on what actions are available to us. I'd push for an independent, citizen-based Community Advisory Committee, separate from council, which currently oversees itself. I'd formalize informed consent for the roughly 200 properties exempted from cleanup, so opting out comes with full knowledge of the risks. And I'd insist on regular public Q&A sessions with PHAI, CNL, and AECL, instead of one-off presentations.

How would you balance the requests of developers with the heritage aspects of existing neighbourhoods and preservation of significant buildings?

I firmly support the preservation of our heritage buildings, and I want the Heritage Advisory Committee to have real teeth. Right now it's purely advisory, with no delegated authority, so even a unanimous committee recommendation still comes down to a council vote. My philosophy: growth should be additive, not imitative. When developers want to build near or incorporate existing heritage buildings and sites, they need to conform to the standards our town has upheld. I do support expansion projects, particularly those that support gentle infill, add affordable housing, or grow capacity for seniors. Growth in heritage districts should let existing sites stay front and centre: simple designs, a complementary aesthetic that doesn't clash with the heritage streetscape. For at-risk buildings like the Old Hospital at 65 Ward Street, I'd support a heritage registry with mandatory inspections and a vacancy tax, so problems are documented and addressed before demolition-by-neglect becomes the only option. To keep inspiring new development, I'd support continuing to evolve our Community Improvement Plans and evaluating the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program or a tax-back grant to attract investment.

How would you address the creation of affordable housing, giving three specific items you would introduce during your term on council? How many units would you want to see created by the end of your term?

I'd require new development proposals to include real, integrated affordable and low-income units from the start, and use incentives like density bonusing, expedited reviews, and CIP grants, to reward developers who bring forward higher-density options like townhouses and low-rise condos. Second, I'd keep pushing on gentle infill and ARUs: simple, workable rules (existing structures, excess lot space, straightforward conversions), and a standard-plans option that can move through an expedited approval path. Third, I would put effort into locating and attracting a developer for a mid-rise apartment building at an appropriate location in Port Hope.

On numbers: Northumberland County's housing strategy projects Port Hope needs roughly 130 new households a year, or about 520 over a four-year term. This represents organic growth; the County's own modelling doesn't account for the nuclear project at Wesleyville. I'd treat that 520 as a floor and commit early in the term to a fresh housing needs assessment that actually factors in Wesleyville-driven demand, adjusting the target upward from there.

How would you implement the More Homes Built Faster Act locally. giving two examples?

Although Port Hope isn't large enough to have a mandated target, council has implemented two of the Act's provisions: Development Charges By-law exemptions for qualified projects and zoning liberalization for ARUs. I want to keep refining how these work in heritage districts specifically, rather than treat it as finished.

Two concrete pieces of the Act's own toolkit that I would push to get both done early in the term. First, formally allowing tiny homes, mobile homes, and modular homes as recognized Additional Residential Unit options. Second, fixing the rule that currently bans ARUs outright on any rural property reached by a private or shared lane. Neither requires new provincial authority, the Act already allows both.

What are your views on Strong Mayor powers and their use?

I think Strong Mayor powers weaken the voice of the people by reducing the mandate of our elected councillors. They were imposed by the province, not something Port Hope council can rewrite locally, though this council was on record opposing the provincial legislation that created them back in 2023. That opposition didn't change the outcome: Port Hope operated under Strong Mayor powers for the first time during the 2026 budget process, so this is now a live issue, not a hypothetical one. I'd continue pushing back directly with our MPP, since real change here needs provincial legislative action. What I can use as a councillor: the two-thirds council majority that can override a mayoral veto, and I'd use it when warranted. I would push that the mayor seek real council consensus before exercising unilateral authority, reserving it for genuine deadlock, with every major use of that authority explained publicly before it takes effect.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

Broadly, local businesses need support through the large infrastructure projects completed and planned for, having a stronger voice in business impacting decisions, and opportunities to invest or grow existing and new business development.

I'd support an independent review of the business impact from recent and upcoming construction projects, feeding into a real mitigation policy: property tax relief during active construction, marketing and streetscape grants, reduced permit fees, and firm advance-notice commitments. I also want the people who run businesses helping plan the major projects so local consideration is part of the planning process. Real economic development is also needed to support our expanding community. That means municipal marketing of what we already have, including heritage architecture, the film industry, and manufacturing, along with higher levels of municipal engagement, incentivization and retention programs, and proactive business proposals to attract and keep the businesses that matter most. To keep inspiring new development in heritage zones, I'd support continuing to evolve our Community Improvement Plans and evaluating the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program or a tax-back grant to attract investment.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

I believe we need to develop a proper assessment of our recreational facilities usage, involving local recreational organizations around a needs-assessment. I've observed that ice-times are very challenged as an example, would look to develop a growth strategy for services that have the growth to support them. I think usage assessments of the new tennis courts, rec centre, libraries, Jack Burger, will tell the story of how we should evolve those services. As our population ages, we also need to ensure we have proper recreational activities for seniors.

Regarding expansion of parks, I think the centre pier, beach, and harbour area, represents a real opportunity to build a multi-functional community asset with open green space, public plaza, marina, and an opportunity to build something unique that honours Port Hope's history; such as an interpretive trail developed with the Michi Saagiig First Nations that walks our history of the "Salmon People", through the fur and grain trading, up through our war-time contributions. Contingent on PHA's cleanup and public consultation, I think this could expand an underused area for locals and tourists.

What is a reasonable municipal tax rate or increase? How would you achieve this, giving specific budget areas or line items?

I would tie future increases to a clear cost-of-living-based index, with anything above that publicly justified. To curve expenditure, I would support a real program-by-program value-for-money review of administrative and discretionary spending and aggressively pursue outside funding before asking residents for more through the levy. I would prioritize our top spending items: police services, works and engineering, parks, recreation & culture, administration, and finance & IT, while pursuing new, creative ways to offset costs across each. This in conjunction with the services needs assessment will give us the opportunity to evaluate the amount of need for economic development.

What is a reasonable increase to the Port Hope Police Service budget? Give specific services or line items you would adjust to reach this goal?

I would support an increase tied to a standard cost-of-living index with special allowances of investment above that, providing it has a suitable business case with risk-based criteria. Through the screening and background check business, the department has proven it can find and offer services that can offset their costs and generate revenue. I want to build on these ideas: expanding background-check and records-service fees, making fuller use of paid-duty officer programs for construction sites and events, and giving police leadership a real mandate to keep finding this kind of self-sustaining revenue. Any increase to the police budget should be weighed against how much of it that diversified revenue is already covering. I also want to evaluate the expansion of Port Hope's police services into Ward 2, reducing costs through shared overhead and resource utilization.

Name four new initiatives you plan to implement over your term to improve the quality of life for everyone in the municipality?

First, revamping how council communicates with the public through an updated and transparent communication strategy. Plain-language updates on what council decided and why, for all meetings published by the Clerk's office after every meeting. Second, a dedicated council meeting for community delegations and public Q&A, separate from regular business, so citizen engagement isn't squeezed into a few minutes. Third, a material plan to address aging infrastructure projects from our backlog. To close our funding gap by finding new revenue sources within our own service delivery. Fourth, turning the centre pier into a genuine public waterfront asset with green space, a market and marina, and a museum or trail developed with the Michi Saagiig First Nations.

How are you uniquely qualified to be elected to council that no one else can provide, but also giving at least one guilty pleasure?

Through my work experience as a managing director at Accenture, I work directly with senior executives and government leaders on complex, high-stakes projects and programs. This gives me exactly the kind of budget, infrastructure, and governance literacy this council needs on files like PHAI and Wesleyville and day-to-day service delivery. I pair that with real, hands-on volunteerism with Green Wood Coalition and The Rose Quest, two local organizations serving residents facing real hardship, so I see this community's needs up close, not just as a line item. Born and raised in Port Hope, this is my first run for elected office, and I think that combination of high-stakes professional experience and direct local service is genuinely rare on one ballot. Guilty pleasure: I'm a sucker for a good themed party and I think we need to bring a bit of fun into everything we do.

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