

Trent Hills

Trent Hills Council Candidate



Municipal Elections

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What specific, concrete steps are you prepared to take to support your position on the Alto High Speed Rail project as it relates to Trent Hills?

I oppose the ALTO high-speed rail project as a whole. However, if it moves forward beyond our control, my first priority would be to push aggressively for a re-route that avoids Trent Hills and minimizes impacts on our rural communities, farmland and property owners.

If a re-route is not possible, I would advocate directly for affected residents, demand meaningful consultation and clear answers on property, access and community impacts, and ensure Trent Hills has a strong voice throughout the process.

We may not control whether ALTO moves forward, but we can absolutely fight for the best possible outcome for Trent Hills.

Where do you stand on the proposed new bridge in Campbellford and what practical actions will you take to support your position? Explain.

I understand both sides of this debate. At this stage, I can support completing the new Campbellford bridge. Land has already been acquired, residents have been displaced and homes have been demolished or slated for demolition. After everything this community has already been put through, walking away now would mean those sacrifices were made for nothing.

At the same time, I would encourage anyone questioning the need for a second crossing to spend some time in Hastings. We live every day with the limitations of having one river crossing, and we understand how vulnerable that can leave a community.

My practical approach would be to push for senior-government funding, continued scrutiny of costs, and transparency as the project moves forward. If we build it, we need to build it responsibly and minimize the burden on local taxpayers.

What role should the municipality play in the proposal to build a new hospital?

The municipality should be one of the strongest advocates for getting a new hospital built, but we also need to be clear about our role. Trent Hills does not build or operate the hospital.

Our job is to advocate aggressively with the province, support the hospital and community fundraising efforts, help remove local barriers where appropriate, and make sure this project remains our highest priority.

A new hospital is bigger than Campbellford; it is critical infrastructure for Trent Hills and the surrounding rural communities. I want our municipality doing everything reasonably within its power to help move it forward as quickly as possible.

Name one or more specific actions you would take to address voter's concerns related to community safety?

I would advocate for more community-led safety initiatives and a stronger focus on prevention.

That means modernizing ideas like the Block Parent program many of us grew up with, supporting Crime Stoppers and neighbourhood-led initiatives, and introducing practical traffic-calming solutions so our kids, seniors and families can move around our communities with a greater sense of safety.

Police and emergency services are essential, but community safety is something we all have a role in. Prevention, safer streets and neighbours looking out for neighbours can help us use our resources more effectively while building a safer community.

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 think Trent Hills needs to become much more intentional about the housing we build. Rather than simply waiting for development proposals to come to us, I want the municipality actively seeking and partnering with builders who are prepared to build the housing our community actually needs.

I would focus on three specific actions:

Seek the right development partners to deliver smaller, attainable and mixed housing options for working families, seniors and young people.

Build housing that fits Trent Hills. Affordable and attainable housing can still be attractive, functional and thoughtfully designed to complement our rural landscape, small-town character and existing neighbourhoods.

Use municipal land, grants and partnerships strategically to help make the right projects viable, while ensuring public support produces a measurable benefit for the community.

I don't think it would be responsible to promise an arbitrary number of units before understanding what land, funding and partnerships are realistically available. By the end of the term, I would measure success by whether we have moved real projects from ideas to construction and created housing options that people in Trent Hills can actually afford.

We need to stop simply reacting to development and start actively seeking the kind of development our community needs.

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

I would use the More Homes Built Faster Act as an opportunity to make it easier for ordinary residents, not just large developers to create housing in Trent Hills.

First, I would simplify and clearly communicate the process for homeowners who want to add secondary suites, garden suites or additional residential units where permitted. If a family can responsibly create another home on property they already own, municipal red tape should not be the reason they cannot do it.

Second, I would push for faster, more predictable approvals for smaller and genuinely affordable housing projects, while ensuring that growth is supported by the roads, water, wastewater and services our communities need.

Building homes faster shouldn't simply mean approving more subdivisions. It should mean creating more housing choices that local people can actually afford.

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

I believe municipal government works best when council members debate issues openly, listen to residents and make decisions collectively.

Strong Mayor powers are now part of the system, but I believe they should be used carefully and transparently, not as a substitute for collaboration or to silence legitimate disagreement around the council table.

There may be circumstances where these powers can help advance provincially identified priorities, but my expectation would always be that collaboration comes first.

Seven elected members bring seven different perspectives to the table. Good leadership should make use of those perspectives, not work around them.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

For me, supporting local business ultimately comes down to people. Businesses flourish when our communities are places where people want to gather, spend time and stay.

The municipality can help create that environment through thoughtful, sustainable investment in our parks, downtowns, trails, waterfronts and community gathering spaces. Give people a reason to stay longer, and we give them more opportunities to shop, eat and spend locally.

I would also explore a fair short-term rental framework that respects property owners and neighbours while expanding our accommodation options. Trent Hills has tremendous tourism potential, but we are leaving dollars on the table when visitors come for the day and leave to stay somewhere else. We need to become a place to visit and stay, not simply a day-trip destination.

More accommodation options can support local restaurants, shops, events and tourism operators, while a responsible STR framework could also provide an additional source of municipal revenue.

We don't create successful businesses from the council table. Our job is to create the environment where people want to come, stay and spend, and where local businesses have the opportunity to flourish.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

I believe our parks and recreational facilities should bring people together year-round, and we need to invest in them based on how residents actually use them.

One priority I would like to explore is a permanent covered outdoor gathering space that could support skating in the winter, markets, festivals, community events and other activities throughout the rest of the year. One investment serving many purposes.

I would also focus on practical improvements to our existing parks; washrooms, accessibility, trails and gathering spaces, while continuing to support the volunteers and community groups that make recreation possible.

Great public spaces create healthier communities, bring people together and give people more reasons to stay local.

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

I don't believe responsible budgeting starts by picking a politically convenient tax increase and then making the numbers fit. My goal would be to keep increases as close to inflation as reasonably possible while protecting the services residents rely on.

I would review contracted and consulting services to identify work that can reasonably be done in-house, scrutinize discretionary spending, pursue grants and partnerships, and look for opportunities to share services, equipment and purchasing with neighbouring municipalities.

Just as importantly, I would engage residents earlier in the budget-planning process. Taxpayers should have a meaningful opportunity to identify their priorities before the budget is finalized, not simply hear about it afterward.

I also want much clearer communication showing residents where municipal dollars actually go, what services they fund and what is driving increases.

For me, responsible taxation comes down to value, transparency and accountability: residents should understand where their money is going and have a voice in the decisions about how it is spent.

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

An 11% annual increase in policing costs is not sustainable for our taxpayers. I would like to see future increases brought much closer to inflation, while maintaining the frontline policing our communities depend on.

The challenge is that Trent Hills does not directly control most OPP costs, so I would push the province and OPP for a detailed breakdown of our billing and greater accountability around calls for service, overtime and other costs that contribute to our bill.

Locally, I would focus on reducing demand through prevention. That means strengthening community-led safety initiatives, modernizing programs similar to the old Block Parent and neighbourhood watch concepts, supporting Crime Stoppers awareness, and using traffic-calming measures where appropriate rather than relying solely on police enforcement.

I would not support cutting frontline policing simply to reach an arbitrary number. The goal should be safer communities while reducing preventable calls for service and making sure taxpayers are receiving value for the millions of dollars we spend on policing each year.

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

Four initiatives I would work to advance during my term are:

Help move the new hospital forward – Make the new hospital a municipal priority by advocating strongly with the province, supporting fundraising and partnerships, and doing everything reasonably within the municipality's role to help move the project toward construction. Access to quality local healthcare is fundamental to quality of life in Trent Hills.

Better resident-to-council communication – Regular, plain-language updates on council decisions, municipal spending and upcoming issues, with clear opportunities for residents to ask questions, provide input and understand what is happening at Town Hall.

Move park revitalization from planning to construction – Develop a real plan for modernizing our important parklands, then aggressively pursue the grants, partnerships and outside funding needed to actually build it. I want to see good community ideas move beyond studies and reports, through the funding hurdles, and into construction, creating modern, accessible public spaces that serve our communities for generations.

A fair short-term rental framework – Develop a balanced approach that allows property owners to create additional income while respecting neighbours and our communities. Done properly, it could expand accommodation options, strengthen tourism and local businesses, and create an additional source of municipal revenue beyond property taxes.

For me, improving quality of life means better healthcare, stronger public spaces, better communication and more opportunities for residents, while continually looking for ways to deliver better value for taxpayers.

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

What I bring is a combination of hands-on municipal experience, private-sector experience and a willingness to get directly involved.

I've worked on the front lines of municipal services, operated my own small business, worked in construction and public spaces, and spent a lot of time listening to residents at their doors. I understand what it means to work within government, but I also understand the perspective of the taxpayer and small-business owner on the other side of the counter.

I'm not running because I want a title. I'm running because I believe council is a job: show up, listen, do the homework and get things done.

As for a guilty pleasure? Give me a good baseball game and an excuse to forget about everything else for a few hours.

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