

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?

The next 4 years are going to be spent performing studies and doing the investigative work to determine feasibility, and laying the groundwork for design & construction. From the Municipalities perspective, this will be our time to verify the impacts to our infrastructure and surrounding landscape. We need to negotiate and ensure the costs of upgrading roads, bridges and culverts, are not going to be borne by the tax payer. That features like Lakeshore Rd don't disappear, but how they can become an integral part of the project that is improved with buffering, landscaping and special features that beatify the road corridor, not make it look like an after thought.

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

I recently attended the Port Hope Area Initiative information centre for new candidates. The question I raised and asked for clarity on is "has the storm sewer system been investigated for contamination?" My biggest concern is that as contaminated material was being moved about the town, piled here and there, and dumped into many areas, the material could easily have been washed into the storm sewer during storm events and transported to the streams. I believe there is a high potential that contamination of the stream beds, downstream of storm sewer outfall structures occurred. PHAI have advised they have not received this question before - I am awaiting their response.

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

I think it is very important to retain the look, feel and integrity of heritage neighbourhoods with significant buildings. If there are vacant lots or opportunities to develop in these areas, strict architectural controls should be imposed, including set back requirements, the height and mass of structures, to ensure they blend into the neighbourhood. Build something new and modern that looks old and fits into the neighborhood.

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?

Higher and medium density homes need to be constructed in Ward 1 where there is access to municipal services, where there is access to public transit and services within a walking distance. I have talked about a proactive growth strategy, Council needs to work with Planning staff to ensure policy documents like the Zoning By-Law and Official Plan reflect the will of Council and are upheld. Higher and medium density developments need to be done thoughtfully ensuring that adequate space is still provided including outdoor amenities. Naming a number of units would be irresponsible, Council cannot control the real estate market or developer interest, they can only set out the opportunity through responsible policy.

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

I don't believe that the More Homes Built Faster Act is a responsible way to develop. When home building is prioritized over everything else including the environment, over servicing needs, over consideration of community needs and benefits, it builds homes faster, but at what cost? It is not how I believe a community should be built. Each development needs careful planning and consideration, not so much red tape that it never happens, but let's do things properly so the right build is in the right place. Not build a multi-unit building on well and septic in a rural hamlet, or a 10 story apartment building in a heritage district.

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

Democracy needs more than one voice, I believe that no one person has all the answers. Using the collective skill and experience of all of council is a more responsible form of governance. Each councillor is also bringing forward the voices of constituents and that is very important to maintain.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

"Support local" campaigns are important to promote local business and keep spending close to home. We have a lot of great entrepreneurs that deserve our support and to continue to drive our local economy.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

Recreational services need to see support and upgrades. Whether it is playing hockey, going for a swim or just a stroll in the park, it is an important part of our overall physical and mental health. An example I can provide are the ball diamonds in Garden Hill. These fields are well used, and they look it. The player benches and bleachers are in very poor condition. I would look to see if the needed upgrades could be completed without an impact to the tax levy. We have a lot of good people and businesses in this community that would offer support in the way of a dollar or swinging a hammer. Perhaps an offer to provide a free advertising sign at the ball diamond in exchange for the materials? We also need to ensure that we enforce the need for parkland in new developments, and not accepting cash in lieu of the inclusion.

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

As a new councillor candidate I don't have the advantage of experiencing the detailed line items of the past, nor am I aware of detailed upcoming costs. Making a guess that will likely be wrong is not a good precedent to set. I would like to see taxes kept as low as possible, but with the realistic expectation that costs for infrastructure and operations are seeing the same inflationary pressures as we are seeing in our personal budgets. Streamlining services should be reviewed to ensure we are not duplicating efforts.

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?

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

Service Port Hope - a centralized customer service centre that receives all general inquiries by telephone or email. Ever made a call or sent a message to Town Hall, only to have it go into the abyss? This would be a great step to improve customer service. Customer Service representatives would ensure your inquiry goes to the right staff person, all inquiries would be tracked in a database, and follow ups with staff would continue until you are answered.

Infrastructure - increased spending is required to maintain Port Hope's municipal roads, sewers, watermain, bridges, & culverts. Delaying and pushing these costs to the future increases costs exponentially. There are strategies that can be implemented to get the best value for the money we spend.

Planning and Development - we need to create an Engineering & Design Standards Criteria Manual. This manual would layout the standards and criteria that are required to be met for infrastructure projects - both capital projects as well as new development. This would ensure consistency as well as provide a guideline for developers. A clear understanding of the rules means less review time, and cost savings for everyone.

Employment Lands - Port Hope needs to establish an Industrial Park. Designate and zone lands that can be established to create jobs and increase Port Hope's tax base. These lands must be carefully determined to ensure they can be serviced with municipal water and sewers, have the least impact to residential and agricultural lands, and are close to transportation corridors.

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

I am uniquely qualified because I have 35 years experience working within a municipality. As a Civil Engineering Tech I've been directly involved in municipal infrastructure projects. I supervised our Design Services team, our Construction Inspection group, and worked as a Project Manager for Infrastructure Delivery. I've been directly responsible for the Municipal consent process for all new utility installations. Chaired the Oshawa Municipal Utility Coordination Committee. I have reviewed engineering for new site plans, subdivisions, committee of adjustment applications, rezoning applications, and land division applications. I was a committee member involved in reviewing and determining surplus municipal land. I have worked with numerous departments within the Municipal environment, including but not limited to Planning, Buildings, Parks, Forestry, Operations, Recreation, Municipal Law Enforcement, Service Oshawa, Clerks, Information Technologies & Communications. I have leadership experience and have worked with local councillors and the Mayor's office with regard to customer service. With the upcoming infrastructure needs in the community, this knowledge would prove to be invaluable.

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