

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 would actively help organize and attend rallies along with groups such as Rural Counties Action Network, Peterborough & Northumberland Against Alto and Alt-No. I support Farmers who deny the Alto assessors onto their lands. Even though my farm is closer to the northern route it's plain to see it-would have less impact there, than through Trent Hills. We can advocate rigorously alongside our neighbouring communities and ensure our voices are heard. We can submit planning alternatives, provide environmental studies on file from the river crossing and negotiate to minimize the impact to our resources and communities

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

Projected costs are climbing towards 56 million and the design is still not finalized and funding is still uncertain. I think it's time tax payers get a complete and unvarnished accounting of spending thus far, a clear picture of what our community is losing and ask the hard question if this is the right location. I know the twinning alternate offered a shorter life span, and many wanted a bi-pass bridge not a bisecting bridge. It's time to ask if we are losing more than we are gaining.

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

From my understanding the town is already actively rezoning areas near the proposed hospital site. Municipalities are required to finance up to 30 % of the total project cost. A hospital levy could be added, we can draw from reserves. The town can facilitate necessary zoning amendments, review designs to ensure compliance w local bylaws and I think the municipality should look at its list of land holdings and sell those that suit reinvention and repurpose, which benefits the town's as well. Recruitment is ongoing but perhaps studying health and demographics to discern what this hospital can specialize in.

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

I would want to look into costs of private security for our down town cores. Night time- lco and grocery stores are being broken into and the OPP are far a field. A random roving person on patrol ie ex cop or security personnel might be a deterrent. Look into motion sensor cameras in "rear" parking lots.

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?

Smaller minimum lot size for severances to allow for tiny homes. Conversion of older structure into co op housing options. And mandatory inclusionary zoning for all new developments.

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

Sadly we have several developments which sold only a small percentage of their planned homes or have failed to move past the model home. Hastings saw the most growth recently. I don't believe most residents are aware that they can create up to 3 dwellings on their serviced property and the town can waive development charges. So informing the public is a good start. Yet, the rental market here is not strong. I want to see mandatory inclusionary zoning for all new development and encourage co op housing options.

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

I would like to put forth a resolution on our books that states Trent Hills does not agree with the Strong Mayoral Powers. Council is voted in to ensure each voice of the community is heard and Strong Mayoral powers diminish our democracy and reduce transparency. We can't repeal it but we can make a resolution to never use it.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

As a council member we must also sit on a community board. As an organizer of Porchella I see the benefit to shops, when events draw people into our down town and so does healthy competition. I would love to participate w the BIA to encourage more town wide events. Street sales. Campbellford in particular needs to encourage landlords to fill their empty spaces with retail. Many communities penalize commercial property owners through a vacant building and land registry By-law, or fine them a fee which escalates year after year. Having active retail shops makes towns better destinations.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

I was a friend of the Crowe when CVCA was going to deem it surplus land. Friends of the Crowe encouraged Trent Hills to lease it. Residents of Trent Hills pay for this park yet it's fenced in and rarely open. I think there are more co operative ways the public can access this property and contribute to its maintenance. I know the fences went up during Covid when we were inundated with visitors who left piles of garbage. But fencing a natural conservation area forces wildlife along the roadway and onto adjoining properties. I would like to see a play ground at the old pool site, horse trails in parts of Ferris. And I have a tourism video in mind.

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

This is a difficult question because taxes are based in part on a property's assessed value. Most properties in the area have not been reassessed since 2016. Home values are pre covid. Though the real estate market has dropped, on average we are above 2016 home values. As these homes are reassessed their value will go up. The assessed value x the mill rate - based on annual budget- will cause taxes to go up from the assessments alone. So calculating a reasonable tax rate when assessments are pending is almost double dipping.

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

In 2025 it was increased by 17.4% with a further expected increase of 11%. We have a couple of cars patrolling but break in crimes are continuing. Do we need better deterrents? I think we pay too much.

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

How bout 5. Encouraging the reuse of vacant town assets. Creating a community mapping system for our cellular deadlines to inform our providers and requesting small cell units or redirection of existing systems. Getting a play ground at the old pool site. Rethinking how Crowe river conservation can better service our tax payers. Creating regulations or bylaws to de-incentivize landlords from allowing their buildings to sit empty and in disrepair-

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'm a helluva singer lol. Seriously, my whole life has been working in service with the public. I know a co-operative society is stronger than one divided. I have a great capacity to see all sides of a situation and all ramifications which enables me to fine tune a decision that everyone is happy with and I don't hesitate to offer suggestions. I think outside the box. Guilty pleasure? Living a life without guilt! lol seriously it's a spoonful or two of organic peanut butter. I have my own jar!

