

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?

1. More Meaningful Public Participation

I want Port Hope residents to have a meaningful voice in decisions surrounding the proposed Wesleyville nuclear project. That means accessible information, transparent communication, opportunities to ask questions, independent expertise where needed, and public input that is clearly considered before major decisions are made.

2. Proven Results: An Informed and Confident Community

In four years, I want to see measurable evidence that Port Hope residents understand what is being proposed, know how decisions are being made, and feel that their concerns are being heard. Most importantly, I want residents to have confidence that Port Hope's safety, character, environment and long-term livability are being protected as the project is evaluated.

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

As a critic of the nuclear industry, I see the Port Hope Area Initiative as an important example of history, ethics and accountability: an acknowledgement of the of the nuclear industry, and out government taking action in our community and a meaningful attempt to address it. It has brought significant environmental remediation, scientific study, infrastructure and employment to Port Hope. With caution, I believe there is value in acknowledging what has been accomplished,

At the same time, I recognize that the project has had growing pains. Some residents have experienced disruption, frustration and uncertainty throughout the process. A successful cleanup should not be measured only by whether the waste is removed; it should also be measured by how the community and residents are treated along the way.

Going forward, I would support continued independent study and monitoring of the social, environmental and economic effects of a project of this scale on our community. Most importantly, I would advocate for a lasting community support mechanism that recognizes impacts that cannot simply be measured in cubic metres of waste removed.

Where residents or the Municipality have experienced demonstrable costs or losses because of the project, there should be appropriate mechanisms for compensation, property-value protection and, where justified, municipal financial relief. I also support a long-term community legacy fund so that Port Hope sees lasting benefits from carrying this national responsibility.

The lesson I take from PHAI is simple: if Port Hope is asked to carry a national historical responsibility, Port Hope residents should not be left carrying the costs alone.

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

I am a strong supporter of architectural, agricultural and cultural heritage. I believe Port Hope can accommodate responsible development while protecting the character, history and identity that make our community special.

Living in Europe opened my eyes to creative and efficient ways municipalities can address housing and development pressures without sacrificing heritage. I have lived in communities where heritage designation and the responsible use of historic buildings were taken very seriously, including policies designed to discourage significant properties from being left vacant indefinitely.

I believe Port Hope should be looking at similar tools. A historic building that sits empty for years can become a burden on the neighbourhood, undermine the local economy and ultimately make preservation more difficult. We should have mechanisms that encourage owners to maintain, restore and actively use significant properties, while also providing reasonable pathways for adaptive reuse.

I would like to see Port Hope explore a combination of incentives, enforcement and creative adaptive-reuse policies that encourage development within our existing neighbourhoods rather than treating heritage and growth as competing interests.

I also believe developers should have a clear and predictable process. If we establish the rules up front—what must be preserved, what can be changed, and where thoughtful new construction can occur—we can give developers certainty while giving residents confidence that the character of their neighbourhoods will not be sacrificed.

To me, preservation is not about freezing Port Hope in time. It is about making sure that as we grow, we don't destroy the very things that make people want to live here in the first place.

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?

How I would address affordable housing

To me, affordable housing is not simply a matter of building as many units as possible. It is about creating housing that people can actually afford to live in and ensuring our community has the services, infrastructure and supports necessary to make that growth sustainable.

1. Connect housing with community support.

I would work with existing provincially and municipally funded organizations and local service providers to strengthen programs that prevent homelessness and housing insecurity, particularly for seniors and vulnerable residents. Port Hope taxpayers already contribute to an umbrella of community services; I would want us to make sure those resources are supporting practical local initiatives and identifying gaps before people reach a crisis.

2. Encourage gentle, organic housing growth through ADUs.

I would support making it easier for homeowners—particularly aging residents—to create appropriate accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or secondary living spaces. This could allow families to house aging parents or adult children, or allow homeowners to generate income from unused space while creating additional housing with relatively little impact on existing neighbourhoods. Clear standards would be needed to protect safety, parking, infrastructure capacity and neighbourhood character.

3. Make infrastructure capacity part of the housing conversation.

I would support housing growth that our roads, water, wastewater, schools, services and community infrastructure can actually sustain. I don't believe the success of affordable housing should be measured simply by how many units are approved or constructed. It should be measured by whether those homes are occupied, affordable and contributing to a healthy community.

How many units?

I would not commit to an arbitrary number of units simply to reach a target. My goal would be to support as many genuinely affordable and appropriate units as our infrastructure and community services can responsibly accommodate during my term.

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

How would I implement the More Homes Built Faster Act locally?

I would not interpret "More Homes Built Faster" as simply "build more, as fast as possible." I believe Port Hope needs to use the tools provided by the Act strategically, while making sure growth is environmentally responsible, compatible with our community and supported by the infrastructure we actually have.

1. Streamline approvals while incentivizing better development.

Where the Act requires or allows streamlined approvals, I would support making Port Hope's processes more efficient by clearly build in to incentives for developments that incorporate environmentally smart design, energy efficiency, appropriate density and preservation of neighborhood character. The goal should be to make it easier to build well, not simply easier to build quickly.

2. Use the Act to encourage non-profit and community housing.

I would actively look for opportunities to use the incentives and reduced development-related costs available for affordable and non-profit housing to attract proposals for co-operative, community and not-for-profit housing with mixed demographics in Port Hope. Ontario's framework already provides particular support for affordable and non-profit housing, so I would want Port Hope to make sure we are taking advantage of those opportunities.

I think that Port Hope should be smart enough to use this Act it to our advantage. If we are going to build, let's use the tools available to encourage housing that is affordable, environmentally responsible, community-minded and appropriate for Port Hope.

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

I am happy that the current mayor refused to use it in her term and continued to carry on with without it. I am in hopes that whoever the next mayor of Port Hope turns out to be that they also follow suit.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

How would I specifically support local businesses?

My own specialty is the arts and film industry, and I see it as an economic opportunity for Port Hope. Ontario's film and television industry generates billions of dollars in economic activity, and productions support businesses far beyond the film sector—from restaurants and accommodations to trades, transportation, retail and professional services.

1. Create a Port Hope Film & Production Advisory Committee.

I would advocate for establishing a local filming advisory committee and offer my own industry experience to help build it. The goal would be to make Port Hope easier for productions to work in, while ensuring local businesses and residents benefit from the economic activity. I would like to see local vendors, accommodations, restaurants, tradespeople and other businesses connected to opportunities created by productions.

2. Address vacant commercial storefronts.

I would explore municipal policies and incentives that discourage valuable commercial spaces on our main streets from remaining empty indefinitely. Where appropriate, this could include incentives for affordable short-term leases, pop-up businesses, local entrepreneurs and community uses, alongside reasonable measures that encourage owners to put long-vacant commercial properties back into productive use.

3. Make arts, culture, agriculture and tourism part of our economic strategy.

I believe these are not simply "nice things to have"—they are economic engines. Festivals, heritage, local food, agriculture, film, arts and cultural events give people reasons to visit Port Hope, spend money here, start businesses here and ultimately choose to live and work here.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

I would treat our parks and recreation spaces as more than infrastructure to maintain. They are our community's living rooms, stages, playgrounds and gathering places gardens.

As a creative person, I appreciate all the amazing imaginative use of the spaces we already have. I would support programming that brings together arts, recreation, culture and nature—outdoor film screenings, community art projects, pop-up performances, workshops, recreational events and seasonal programming that gives people reasons to get outside and connect with one another.

i support continuing to make our parks more accessible to different generations and abilities. Walking, gardening, skating, playing, creating, performing, socializing and simply having a safe place to spend time are all forms of recreation. Not to forgetting at all our parks north of the 401. Make efforts to draw more use of our forests as a space for creative and education and recreational use by the public.

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

In my opinion there is no reasonable municipal tax rate increase. Nobody is going to ever admit that they are excited about tax increases. But if there was no way of getting out of it I would certainly insure that tax rate increases are done gradually so that property owners, families and businesses can financially plan for these raises. Possibly raise them by means of term instead of annually.

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?

Port Hope's police officers already encounter situations involving mental health, homelessness, addiction and other social challenges that are not fundamentally policing problems. I believe our community needs to invest more in prevention and support so that police are not continually being asked to respond to problems that could have been addressed earlier through social services.

Specifically, I would look at funding for:

A dedicated community-outreach/social-service position or team that could work alongside police and connect vulnerable residents with appropriate services before situations escalate into emergency calls or enforcement.

Formal partnerships with local organizations providing mental-health, housing, addiction and poverty-prevention services, with measurable goals for reducing repeat crisis calls and unnecessary involvement with the criminal-justice system.

I would not choose an arbitrary percentage increase before knowing what this expanded service would actually cost. I would ask the Police Services Board and community partners to develop a proposal with a clear price tag, measurable outcomes and annual reporting.

If we are going to spend more on policing, I want to know that we are investing not only in responding to crime, but in preventing the circumstances that bring people into the criminal-justice system in the first place.

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

HERITAGE, FILM, TOURISM AND CULTURE AS ECONOMIC ENGINES

Safeguard and protect historical landscapes and ecotecture, architecture by built in policy incentivizing creative solutions for developers to propose

Leverage existing relationships with film location managers, casting directors and producers to attract industry partnerships and investment.

Connect property owners and the broader community to the economic benefits of film and tourism.

Guide film investment toward local workforce development—including crew training, skilled trades, hospitality and tourism.

Balance heritage preservation with industry growth so development reinforces what makes Port Hope distinctive.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Acknowledge both the potential benefits and legitimate concerns surrounding the project honestly.

Hold OPG to the highest practical standards throughout impact assessment, licensing and construction.

Nurture Community Benefits Agreements, living-wage commitments and local hiring requirements.

Support local environmental protections that exceed minimum regulatory thresholds where appropriate.

Protect tourism, film, culture and heritage interests from unnecessary disruption.

Ensure Indigenous rights under the Williams Treaties are centered and respected.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH THAT WORKS FOR PORT HOPE

Foster Community Benefits Agreements that deliver affordable housing, living wages and environmental protections as contractual commitments.

Prioritize workers' rights and fair employment practices as criteria in municipal procurement contracts.

Advance affordable housing as a core consideration in development and infrastructure planning.

Cultivate municipal procurement based on total value—including wages, environmental impact and local hiring—not simply the lowest bid.

Insist on public accountability, with measurable outcomes and transparent reporting.

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

Nobody else can bring my particular combination of experience, connections and perspective to Council.

I have direct connections to Ontario's film industry and a practical understanding of how productions work, including how they can create opportunities for local businesses, tourism and our community.

I also spent a significant portion of my adult life overseas, living in smaller communities that have had to find creative ways to balance development, affordable housing, heritage and quality of life.

My background in international Diplomatic and stakeholder-relations experience including my work with Greenpeace International has also taught me how to question institutions, negotiate, advocate and, importantly, not be afraid to challenge the room.

That perspective matters as Port Hope faces major decisions, including the proposed nuclear project at Wesleyville. I have experience looking critically at the nuclear industry, but I believe my responsibility as a public servant would be to examine the evidence, ask difficult questions and advocate for Port Hope residents to have a meaningful seat at the table rather than simply accept the position of any industry, government or organization.

And my guilty pleasure?

Being the devil's advocate.

I genuinely enjoy asking the slightly annoying question that everyone else is thinking but nobody wants to say out loud. I challenge the assumption, and sometimes I refuse to applaud just because everyone else is clapping. I do not enjoy drinking the Kool-Aid.

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