

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'm open to high-speed rail, but I wouldn't endorse a route through Trent Hills without understanding its effects on residents, farms, property and local roads. Alto has not selected a final alignment, and Trent Hills Council has already raised concerns about possible impacts on Campbellford and Hastings.

As a councillor, I would ask Alto to show the local route options and explain the property, agricultural, environmental and access impacts of each one. I would press for affected owners to be contacted directly and for a meaningful opportunity to respond. I would also work with the County to identify road, emergency-access and infrastructure concerns, then make sure that evidence reaches Alto and the federal government.

I'm interested in better regional transportation, but local benefits and local costs need to be examined, not assumed.

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

I support moving the new Campbellford crossing forward. Another way across the river matters for access and emergency planning, but a project of this size needs a credible funding and maintenance plan.

Northumberland County leads the project, so I couldn't promise a construction date as a Trent Hills councillor. I would ask for an up-to-date project cost, a clear accounting of funding secured and still needed, and the expected long-term operating costs. I would also work with the County on how construction would affect local roads, emergency response and downtown businesses, and advocate for senior-government funding where there is an appropriate opportunity.

I've talked with people in the community about the bridge. I support getting it built, while being honest about what remains to be funded and decided.

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

The Municipality won't build or operate the new hospital, but it has an important role in planning for everything around it. CMH's proposed County Road 30 campus raises practical questions about road access, water and wastewater, traffic, accessible transportation and how future housing or other services would fit on the site.

I plan to attend CMH's September 30 redevelopment briefing with those questions in mind. I want to understand what decisions are coming, what each organization would pay for, and how patients, staff and visitors who don't drive would reach the site. The Municipality should work closely with CMH, the County and the Province on those issues rather than wait until construction is imminent.

I support planning carefully for the hospital's future without presenting proposed parts of the campus as already funded or approved.

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

Community safety includes policing, but also the crossings, sidewalks, lighting and roads people use every day. Trent Hills and the County expanded Community Safety Zones in Campbellford and Hastings this year. The next question is whether the measures in each location are working.

I would ask staff to review collision and speed data alongside reports from residents, schools and the OPP, starting with locations people identify as unsafe. Then I would look at the appropriate response: perhaps a crossing or road-design change on a municipal street, a request to the County on a County road, or an enforcement priority to discuss with the OPP and detachment board.

I'm interested in the pattern, not just the complaint. People's experiences tell us where to look; evidence helps us decide what will make them safer.

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?

More homes do not automatically mean affordable homes. I would pursue three pieces of work on Council.

First, review local zoning and servicing barriers to smaller homes, additional units and appropriate multi-unit housing. Second, work with Northumberland County and housing providers to identify projects that would actually deliver affordable rental or RGI homes, while being clear when a proposal is transitional, supportive or market housing instead. Third, examine municipal land, infrastructure and existing incentives to see where Trent Hills could help a viable project proceed.

I would start with a shared, Trent Hills-specific picture of need and the project pipeline, using existing municipal and County processes where possible rather than automatically creating a new committee.

I can't responsibly give a four-year unit number yet. I would need to know which projects are funded, serviceable and likely to be occupied within the term. I'd also seek local evidence before attributing housing pressures to short-term rentals.

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

I would focus on two practical local steps.

First, ask staff to check whether Trent Hills' zoning, application instructions and other local rules clearly reflect the additional residential units permitted under provincial law. Where a local rule creates an unnecessary or unlawful barrier, Council should consider the appropriate correction. That does not mean four units are automatically allowed on every property.

Second, ask for a clear account of what slows suitable housing projects: the time taken at each application stage, servicing capacity, and the cost of any infrastructure a site needs. Council could then address a bottleneck it actually controls, rather than promising faster approvals where the real constraint is water, wastewater or another requirement.

Building faster only helps if the homes are appropriately located and their long-term infrastructure costs are understood.

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

I'm running for councillor, so I would not personally hold strong mayor powers. They have applied in Trent Hills since May 2025, and they change how some decisions, particularly the budget, move through Council.

My approach would be to understand the written decision and its consequences, ask questions in public wherever possible, and use the responsibilities Council still has: debating proposals, considering budget amendments and, where the law provides for it, voting on an override. I would want the reasons for consequential decisions to be clear to both Council and residents.

I would prefer Council and the mayor to work through disagreements openly. But I wouldn't promise either to support or oppose every use of a statutory power in advance; I would judge the particular decision, its legal basis and its effect on Trent Hills.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

I would begin with business owners' experience of starting, operating and expanding here: where does a proposal get stuck, and is the barrier something Trent Hills can change?

Three areas deserve a close look. First, make municipal planning and permit requirements clear and predictable, and measure how long complete applications actually take. Second, review whether the existing Community Improvement Plan is reaching eligible downtown properties and producing completed improvements. Third, check whether available business sites have the road access and servicing they need, and coordinate with the County where the issue falls within its responsibilities.

I wouldn't assume that permits are slow or that one incentive will fix every business's problem. Owners create and run businesses. Council's job is to understand its own costs and processes, remove unnecessary barriers where it can, and be candid about what it cannot control.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

My first priority would be looking after the parks, trails and facilities we already have, including the long-term operating and maintenance costs of the Sunny Life Recreation and Wellness Centre.

I would ask for facility-condition information, use and participation figures, and a clear account of what programs cost residents and the Municipality. I'd also want to hear from people who aren't participating. Is the barrier a fee, schedule, accessibility problem, transportation, or the absence of a program?

I'd also look at the basics that make people feel comfortable using our public spaces, including lighting and visibility after dark. If a park or recreation area is being used in the evening, people should be able to move around safely.

Some answers may involve a repair, better lighting or a safer trail connection; others may involve working with a programming partner rather than building something new. I would use that evidence to weigh future capital requests against maintenance needs and make sure residents across Trent Hills can benefit from the facilities and outdoor spaces we have.

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

I wouldn't name a tax increase or a cut before seeing the budget for the year in question. The final 2026 Trent Hills budget has a tax requirement of about \$18.34 million, but the municipal levy is only one part of a property-tax bill.

I would start with identifiable spending decisions: review contracts and renewals for value, examine operating costs as new facilities settle into full-year use, and test whether a capital project can safely be phased or deferred without a larger future cost. I would also look at applicable grants, fees and development-charge funding, but not count on revenue that has not been secured.

I would ask staff to show the dollar saving, service effect and infrastructure risk of each option before proposing a budget amendment. Residents deserve both a careful tax decision and an honest account of what it will maintain.

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

I wouldn't set an arbitrary OPP increase or promise to move money between patrols and school-zone enforcement. The OPP's bill is calculated under a provincial framework; Council budgets for it but does not direct individual deployments.

I would ask for the local billing breakdown and work with the Northumberland OPP Detachment Board to understand calls for service, traffic concerns, response measures and any proposed change in service. If a gap is documented, I would ask the OPP what response is possible and what it would cost before supporting an additional expense.

On the municipal side, I would separately review the broader Police-function budget and any proposed use of the police reserve. A reserve withdrawal can affect this year's tax requirement; it does not make the underlying OPP bill disappear. I can't responsibly name a target percentage without those details.

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

I would bring forward four practical pieces of work, beginning with what already exists rather than creating four entirely new programs.

First, work with Community Care Northumberland and the County to identify and address gaps in non-driver transportation, particularly access to healthcare, work and essential errands.

Second, create a simple, accessible way for residents to find municipal and partner services by phone, in print and online.

Third, develop a priority list for missing or difficult sidewalk, crossing and trail connections on municipal property, using accessibility and safety information to guide improvements.

Fourth, work with existing housing, health and community partners to identify local gaps and coordinate where the Municipality can actually help.

I would want each initiative scoped and costed. Improving an existing service may do more for residents than announcing a new one.

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 can't speak for what other candidates bring, and I wouldn't claim to be the only person with a useful qualification. I can tell you what I would bring.

My background is in communications, storytelling and helping people communicate clearly. I've worked with written communication, content, story coaching, hosting and emceeing, and a big part of that work is listening, asking good questions and understanding what someone is trying to say.

I've tried to approach this campaign the same way. I won't arrive at Council knowing every answer, but I will do the research, speak with the people affected and those responsible for a decision, and report back plainly on what I learn.

I think residents should be able to understand not only how I voted, but why.

My guilty pleasures? Coffee and tea, in that order. Two milks, one sugar in both. Ice cream. And a cold glass of milk. Maybe I should have been a dairy farmer.

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