

Port Hope

Port Hope Council Candidates



Municipal Elections

2026 YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.
INFORMED TODAY. STRONGER TOMORROW. • N897 FM

First Name *

Les

Last Name *

Andrews

Campaign address *

1 Hodgson St

Website and social media *

Les Andrews for Port Hope Council

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 first thing I would want to happen, is to take Lakeshore Road west, from Port Hope to Wesleyville, off the negotiation table as a potential route for commercial vehicles. The 401 should be the east/ west route to the proposed OPG site. I would want to maintain the historic value and natural beauty of Lakeshore Road.

The second critical matter Council will need to deal with, is how we treat farmland acquired by OPG. I am sure OPG will want zoning changed from farm, to commercial/industrial use.s Council will have to use common sense and foresight, in all future zoning applications.

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

The Port hope Area Initiative has fulfilled its obligations, relative to the commercial sites it has remediated.

The current issue.\, is that 800 plus homeowners need their properties remediated. To assist the homeowners, Port Hope Council has been appointed to start up and oversee the Community Advisory Committee(CAC)

Working with our residents, there will be external professionals that specialize in real estate valuations, mortgage and insurance issues and legal matters

.CAC will be the liasion and intermediary connection between residents and the Federal Government regarding PHAI.

The CAC will give a voice, to residents,that allows for fair negotiation on issues relative to the remediation of their property.

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

Developers must respect the heritage values inherent throughout Port Hope. Clear direction must be given, by our planning department that preservation, where practical and new developments, pay homage to our historic nature

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?

During this current term on Council, the Mayor and I negotiated an affordable housing agreement with the Wellings development on Henderson Street. We were able to attain 5 units, for 20 some years, at \$1500 per unit. This is the first time an arrangement of this sort has been made with a developer. All future Developers will be asked to provide a portion of their units, in a similar manner. Additional Residential Units could ease the affordability crisis, but we are seeing very little activity in this area. We can encourage this type of residential growth but I am afraid it will be a slow process.

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

More home built faster will require our Planning and Development Department to be much more efficient on processing development applications. I would suggest that a booklet, outlining the development requirements be created with the intent, follow these rules, regulations and guidelines and you are good to go Mr. Developer. This would eliminate the current back and forth, between our Planning staff and the developer.

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

I feel that Council and the Mayor should all have equal voting powers. Our residents have elected Council as a team and each member of that team is equally responsible to the electorate.

What specific steps would you take to support local business?

Over the past three years our Economic Development initiative have fallen flat. We have established a new 5 year tourism/business development plan and are in essence starting afresh. We should be concentrating on the basics, cleanliness, service and availability.

Why are we hiding our Tourism office on the second floor of the Library. How is a newcomer supposed to find that kiosk? Let's bring the Tourism office back to the Capitol Theatre and staff it with a appropriately. And, don't forget, provide a brochure outlining our various attractions.

What are your plans to support recreational facilities and parks?

My goal, not a promise, is to advocate for and build a private/ publicly funded arena combined with a YMCA complete with an aquatic facility

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

Future taxes should be held at the rate of inflation or CPI. Budgets should be built from the bottom up, basics first (sidewalks, road, protective services) The second layer can be the need to have, the third layer is the nice to have, that may not be implemented because we have reached the maximum limit of funds available.

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?

The biggest line items in any Police budget are related to staffing costs, which in Port Hope is roughly 90% of the budget. A reasonable increase would be in the neighbourhood of 2% for community policing. The Port Hope Police Services board sets the Port Hope Policing budget, we have no say in the OPP portion of the budget.

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

1. Identify a site for a Long Term Care home and solicit a reputable developer to own/operate this facility.
2. Build a second arena and a YMCA, to complement our overused current facilities
3. Complete the remediation of 125 homes per year, for the next four years
4. Remain fiscally responsible to our residents

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

Been there done that. I have served three, four year terms on Council and have an understanding of where we came from and what we need to do, to secure our future as a thriving Municipality