

BRIAN for MAYOR

ROTARY CLUB DEBATE

October 3rd, 2022

WITH GRACE

The Rotary Club: An organization of business and professional person united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

I am grateful to the Rotary Club for their charitable contributions to the City of Peterborough, especially in terms of the beautiful trails that run through this city. We are very fortunate to have the green space and trails available; it's crucial that we keep these spaces safe so that everyone can enjoy them. I share with the club's desire for high ethical standards, including helping build goodwill and to promote peace.

I put my name in the running for mayor with one intention; to help this city with the cleanup, by helping the homeless and the addicts; to take back the downtown core and revive this city's economy. I want Peterborough to be the example, to be family friendly, to be a safe environment for everyone. I plan on doing this by curbing and controlling the drug use by ending PRAM's needle distribution to the parks and containing their harm reduction program to the safe injection site.

I have personal experience dealing with an addict; my father was an addict from the day I was born until the day he killed himself. He was in and out of rehab; sometimes he would be clean for months, other times for years. It's been over twenty five years since his death; the drug situation has only gotten worse and the drugs are more harmful. People are dying in the streets; safe consumption sites are a good start to help the addicts and the community, but we need a serious readjustment as a society on how we deal with addiction and trauma.

We must work together as a community; I read the perfect quote stating, "It's going to take a village." We need a healthy environment with good job opportunities, where people have the opportunity to find their purpose and a reason to live. We need more responsibility from the organizations that are bringing in individuals into Peterborough for treatment or reintegration; these organizations should be accountable to those individuals and the city, making sure that they do not end up on the street homeless.

I have no desire to pretend to be a politician. I advanced my name in the Mayoral race out of the duty to service and the knowing that I can help. Many people have asked me which political party I am associated with, to which I repeat, I do not identify with any political party. As Mayor I would be concerned with the best interest for the City of Peterborough and I would be accountable to the citizens of Peterborough. These are not normal times and I am not following the time tested political campaign rules; besides the fact that I don't know them, I am not here to play politics. I am here to clean up the city and make Peterborough the example.

My platform is based on truth, transparency and integrity; which is all lip service until I have proven myself. I need the support of the people of Peterborough if I am going to get anything done. I am doing my part now by refusing to use one-use-plastic election signs; or even accepting donations! Some have

accused me of being naive and having blinders on; which maybe so, however, I am committed to the truth.

I look forward to working with the Rotary Club in any capacity. I have an idea that I would like to share; please, look into connecting the Millennium Park pathway to the London Street footbridge. On more than one occasion, when at the end of the Millennium Park footpath at Simcoe Street, I heard visitors to the city make comments like, “Is this it? Or, is this the end?” Millennium Park is beautiful; however it is also a disappointment when you reach Simcoe Street and you are faced with the fenced in tractor trailers from Quaker Oats. Extending the path under the Hunter Street Bridge, around Quaker Oats and connecting it to London Street footbridge would change the dynamics of the city over night. This is an idea that would change the course of this city.

ACTION NOW: Rescue Plan

The Office of Mayor:

The Mayor is voted in by the citizens and is responsible to those citizens. There are a handful of people who are in positions that are running this city who are not voted in; it is the Mayor’s responsibility to ensure that these people are doing their job and are held accountable. I believe that we have had enough plans, surveys, reports and committees! We need action and results NOW!

1. Clean up and take back the downtown core:

The rampant drug use must be controlled and contained. People are literally dying in the streets and others are afraid to come downtown. I am told that people think that it’s like a war zone. I see our city as being under attack and our businesses held hostage.

Solution: Increase security and surveillance – The police want more money for more officers; and the police would like to install security cameras. Do the people of Peterborough want this; where should the cameras be installed; and, are the police being responsible with the budget that they do have? We have private security companies patrolling our parks. Do we need to pay for additional security and increase the police budget? Where is this money going to come from?

We need a clean, safe environment for our families and our businesses. Mental health will improve, businesses will thrive and tourist will return. Servicing our County’s residents will become a much larger segment of our economy, whether it is for shopping or for the arts.

Crime is directly related to this city’s drug and mental health issues. A massive amount of action is required NOW, on all levels!

2. Homelessness and the housing market:

Not just addicts, but young families and single mothers are among those who are struggling with the cost of living; in particular, the cost of housing; it doesn’t matter whether buying or renting the monthly expense is crippling. This market is directly related to the interest rates and banking policy. In the near future the economy is facing a downturn and rising interest rates will correct the house prices; unfortunately, many people will not be in the position to take advantage of

the lower prices. There are large companies like Starlight that are buying up the apartment buildings; as tenants move out they fix-up the unit and raise the rent. We need to hold these companies accountable. We need more affordable housing across the board now.

As Mayor of Peterborough I will not have the influence to affect interest rates and banking policy; however, I can open up the conversations with the large companies who have a direct influence on our housing market and ensure that they are acting in the best interest of the city.

It's been proven that our shelter system is not working; we have examples where housing people first and then helping them with their issues has worked; young couples who do not want to split up are opting out to live in tents.

Innovative projects like PATH will be essential. I have toured a number of modular housing factories; the PATH type houses would be perfect for a factory build. I would like to see a joint project with the schools; where they could use the factory as a technical training facility. Each project must be based on its own merits.

We need affordable housing NOW!

3. Economic Revival and job growth:

We need higher paying jobs and we must use the land that we do have wisely. I am a strong supporter of development and organic growth; while at the same time protecting our green space. If a project makes sense and we have the money, then it should get done. As Mayor, I would ensure that all the facts are revealed, all concerns are heard; that a project must benefit the citizens of Peterborough and not just a few. Morrow Park is such a project, all facts and concerns must be revealed.

4. Transportation:

In a growing city transportation is an ongoing concern and the roads must be maintained. The Parkway extension, the airport development and the train station are projects that we should be considering; when the infrastructure is needed, when we have the money, and the project benefits the citizens of Peterborough then it should get done. These projects require a tremendous amount of money; my investment experience and banking connections will benefit the City of Peterborough. I will not tolerate corruption on any level, decisions made by the last council will not be repeated; like the resurfacing of a street that was not in bad shape, when so many others are in horrible condition.

Many people have voiced their concern about our public transit system and are not happy with the resent changes; these changes will be a top priority for the next mayor and council. The people running the transit system should be held accountable to those who use it.

5. The Environment: General Electric has left us with a huge mess; why the silence, what action has been taken, what is going on with the clean up?

We must take action against General Electric NOW!