

1. What is your overall vision for the City of Peterborough?

We have a gem of a city and I fell in love with Peterborough when I moved from Etobicoke to Cavan in the early 90's. Peterborough fits the basic city needs but also a short walk and/or drive to the calmness of the outdoor and country life. Peterborough has seen a lot of negative changes due to the Pandemic in the recent years. Covid impacts and recovery challenges have been not only been felt at a city level, but also provincial, national and global levels as well. The economic and social challenges will take years to undo. My hope is to not only rebound to where we were 3 years ago, but to implement the change that's needed to improve our city progressively during this rebound. I want to help ensure our downtown and community events are back, in a safe and welcoming environment for all our households; community inclusion regardless of age, gender or family status. I want to see our downtown business back in full swing with minimal vacant storefronts. When we have a strong, clean and respectful downtown, we have a reputable and desired city. I want to see proper and family-affordable housing and continuous economic development in our growing city. We have a challenge of rebounding from Covid-19, but also an opportunity to plan progressively with the expected growth in the next 5-10years.

2. What is your plan to build a strong local workforce?

We need to continue listening and investing in more programs and data collection by Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED), the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce and other strong community partners. Their reports and highlights show the growth and challenges our city will be expecting in the next 4-10years, but also the economical potential our city has available. Companies want to build in our city for job creation, however these companies are finding it a challenge to find housing in our city to relocate their managerial and training staff, to properly train new employees within their new company expansion. I want to be an advocate and problem solver with our small businesses and economic partners, to provide our great city with great employment opportunities. We need this understanding for our economic opportunity and the ability to pivot our road and transportation plans to assist with this growth potential as well.

3. Housing has become less affordable and accessible, especially for first-time home buyers. What is your plan to address housing needs in our community?

I attended an all candidates meeting with our Public Health Unit recently, and their studies found that the City of Peterborough only grew aprox 2%, versus a higher Provincial and Peterborough County average. Unfortunately I believe a major contributing factor for a lower city growth is the lack in supply of starter homes, both existing and new builds. A lack of starter homes has also resulted in our house prices skyrocket beyond a financial acceptability/risk limit by first-time home buyers. As for new starter homes being built, we're running out of available property at a city level due to our community size and residential sprawl. We need approval for proper development for reasonably affordable multi-story buildings to fit our younger family demands. We also need at a municipal level a financial commitment from both upper levels of government on any new plans at city level. The municipal level of government cannot (and should not) be the only level of government significantly increasing their financial budget, during a provincial and national housing crisis.

4. A lack of serviced employment lands is an ongoing issue. The emphasis for a long time was on negotiating agreements with bordering townships, but the draft Official Plan calls for those

lands to be found within current city boundaries. What is your plan to increase access to serviced employment lands?

We need to look at the properties that are not being utilized and have potential of growth and industry opportunity, however we need to ensure the job creation being proposed doesn't destroy the environment and poison our city. You don't have to look far, as the GE property over time has turned into a blight within our city. It's a perfect example of being a strong generation employer, however now our city is stuck mitigating around unusable land due to poisoning their property. This is unacceptable and we need to ensure this doesn't happen again when we acquire and/or rezone for industry. We have limited options unfortunately within our city's boarder as Peterborough continues to grow in the next 4-10years. However without proper future industrial planning we'll have the challenge for our future generation, regarding employment opportunities within our city. Our next council cannot ignore this challenge and needs to reach out as soon as possible to partners like PKED and other advisors, that have helped other towns our size and can assist with city recommendations on this challenge.

5. The draft Official Plan calls for greater consultation and increased dialogue with neighbouring First Nations communities. What involvement and relationships do you plan to pursue with First Nations communities to move our region forward on our path to reconciliation?

I was born in the early 80s. I did not have the education nor knowledge my kids do today when I was at their ages (ages 10-16) within the education system, media coverage and national priority. I'm glad my kids know the horrid conditions and lack of compassion from these residential schools, and that we can talk openly about our nation's true history, whether it make us comfortable or not. I wish as a Nation we listened with compassion earlier on, instead of allowing bias, racism and ignorance to continue as long as it has. The stories that were silenced and the fact that these residential schools continued on for as long as they did, is absolutely shameful. The healing process after decades of abuse and neglect, will also need decades to openly discuss and heal.

During the final council meeting of our current council, there was a notice of motion "That city staff and Council continue conversations with the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) Group, with the goal of exploring how the City of Peterborough can sign on to the Friendship Accord that currently consists of Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Selwyn Township, Otonabee-South Monaghan Township, Peterborough County, and Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development." that received unanimous support. I would like to see Peterborough sign on to the Friendship Accord. Ironically our development and economics has now prioritised the importance of respecting the environment within the last few decades, yet the indigenious has had the mindset and priority of respecting mother nature and proper balance-teachings for centuries.

6. Our community is dealing with an addictions crisis that is now more visible than ever. What is your plan to address this crisis?

I think the controversial consumption sight in the old greyhound station is truly needed. Our challenges have stemmed from other clinics handing out free needles, which these needles have been found in overabundance around our downtown streets, parks and trails for a number of years now. This new facility at the old Grey Hound building now provides proper disposal of needles and other contaminates, in a judgement and stigma-free environment. This also provides a longer stay

for communicating assistance and resources, if the individual is seeking assistance by others for their current addiction challenges. My hope is to see the benefits immediately from providing a safe place for narcotic use, versus handing out numerous needles to be found scattered around our city. I believe we need the city to develop a proper plan to address addiction services and mental health challenges in our city, again with the financial assistance by both higher levels of government.

7. The efficient movement of people and goods is important to business competitiveness. What is your plan to address our transportation challenges?

There's no doubt we have to invest properly within the city budget to maintain our roadways for ensuring goods and services to and from our local businesses and industry. I don't want to discuss the Parkway as it's been erased from the city's official transportation plan, which I witnessed strong advocacy groups wanting to prevent Jackson's Park from being touched. However without the approval of extending the Parkway to Hospital Drive, we need to look at a proper South-to-North transit plan to fill our growing city's needs. I would also personally like to see Goodfellow road widened for a separate left and right turning lane on Sherbrooke street, as it's been needed for far too long.

I am looking forward to having our railway back for reliable passenger and cargo service to and from Peterborough. Our family has used the Go Bus service to get to the Oshawa Train for Toronto events (mainly Blue Jay games) however it takes over 2 hours with all the bus stops on Highway 115. I think the railway service will be a great addition for Peterborough and central Ontario. It should have never been a partisan issue.

8. Crime is an increasing concern within the local business community, from vandalism to shoplifting to after-hours break-ins. What will you do as a member of council to ensure businesses feel protected and supported?

The police board is asking for a 4% increase on their annual budget which includes hiring more police officers and staff. I am in full support of giving the police department budgetary increases when the demand for their services has increased. However I would encourage that with this larger budget increase (compared with the 1.5% city staff annual wage increase) that a committed/updated action plan for 24/7 police patrols within our downtown core is required. Also I believe since we've seen an increase in vacant store fronts due to the impacts of the pandemic for two-plus years, is a huge contributing factor in the downtown's increase of loitering. I believe we need to have a priority of getting out store fronts full again to see the improvements downtown needs. Small business need more access to low interest loans, government grants by all three levels of government and programs to assist in lower rental fees as I know these store fronts are being requested from \$3K-\$5K++ per month on 3-5 year lease agreements. Without helping out small businesses downtown, we won't have a vibrant and successful downtown.

9. How should the city engage local business to help meet climate change goals and move toward net-zero emissions?

I think spreading awareness of current and future government grants needs to be readily available with the understanding there needs to be assistance and/or a liaison department for these programs if there's provisions and lengthy applications on these government opportunities. We have a lot of resources in our community such as the Peterborough

Chamber, PKED, Community Futures and Innovation cluster that can be a great resource for any level of government regarding pilot programs. I also am intrigued with the new carbon-neutral Fire Station being build in Peterborough and my hope is for this project to be the first of many of it's kind in Peterborough. Council needs to communicate and engage the cost and environmental benefits of projects like these for better public awareness.

10. What three things would you like to see council implement that will make local businesses more competitive?

1 –A commitment to improving our transit system. A lot of individuals require public transit to get to and from work on time. Our current unreliable transit system is without question a contributing factor on the challenges with hiring new employees within the customer service/retail industry.

2 – A commitment to Small Businesses to spear-head regular communication to partner with the two higher levels of government to for additional funding opportunities, as we understand the current financial struggles of starting and expanding a business. Our city (especially our downtown) cannot be successful without the success of new and expanding Small Businesses.

3 - A commitment to hiring adequate staff for our building permit department, as our staffing levels have not increased with the demand by local developers and businesses.