

From: Gary Baldwin, Councillor Candidate Ashburnham Ward

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

Peterborough is a community that I have called home for sixty-seven years. I grew up here, spent my career working here, and raised my family here. Peterborough is ideally situated geographically. 82,000 citizens call the Liftlock city home. Situated in the heart of the Kawarthas, we are only 75 minutes from downtown Toronto, and only a half hour from cottage country. This makes Peterborough an ideal location to commute to the GTA for employment, while living in a community that offers many people recreational opportunities. My vision for Peterborough is for our city to continue to provide residents with a safe place to live, a city that offers residents meaningful employment opportunities, improved recreational facilities including an abundance of trails and parks, and a city that provides all its residents with services upon which they can depend.

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

There is no magic blueprint for building a strong local work force. As Councillors we need to ensure Peterborough continues to grow sustainably, and that we're fostering an environment to continue enticing businesses to set up shop in the city. The city is an ideal place to live and raise a family, and its proximity to the GTA offers excellent opportunities for business owners. Councillors must also continue to invest in the workforce and businesses we already have. Investments in the airport and in the Clean Tech Commons Park at Trent University are already providing job opportunities for residents and I am hopeful these are just the start of a next wave of employment opportunity for the city.

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

The city of Peterborough continues to assist people with housing but I understand more must be done to spur construction of affordable housing. The City has several programmes that incentivize developers to build housing, including a grant programme that facilitates housing construction and rental units at eighty per cent of market value. This is a good step forward and a smart investment that both increases the number of units available and provides jobs for skilled trades. The city has also allocated money through the budget process in the form of rent supplements to assist people with rental payments. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate for additional housing construction and will work with the provincial and federal governments to continue funding housing supplements for city residents.

To assist with the creation of affordable housing and to encourage downtown redevelopment and revitalization projects, I support Peterborough's two community improvement plans that allow for financial incentive for certain types of projects.

The Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan provides incentives to stimulate the construction of affordable housing. By providing relief on fees for planning approvals, development charges, and property taxes, we can lower rents, creating more affordable housing for residents. Through the Central Area Improvement Plan, the City provides financial incentive to stimulate private sector investment and revitalization of the Central Area. A vital and thriving downtown is essential to the quality of life in the city and I am a strong proponent of programmes like these.

At the February 22, 2021 City Council Meeting, Council approved Report CSSS21-003 Governance Alternatives to Support Affordable Housing Development. The report included support for the establishment of a Government Business Enterprise to be responsible for the management and construction of affordable housing. City staff were directed to work with Peterborough Housing Corporation representatives to determine the most effective and expeditious method to make application to the federal National Housing CO-Investment Fund for the funding of up to 1500 units of housing on Peterborough Housing Corporation lands to be completed through the GBE. I am a strong supporter of this initiative and believe it will assist with the housing needs of our community.

4. A lack of serviced employment land is an ongoing issue. The emphasis for a long time was on negotiating an agreement 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 land?

This has been an ongoing discussion since I was first elected to city council in 2014. There are certainly lands within the current city boundaries that can be developed as stated in the draft Official Plan. It will be up to local developers to pursue those opportunities. This does not necessarily rule out the opportunity to amend the Official Plan should there be opportunities to negotiate a land deal with neighbouring townships. Annexation or Amalgamation may be a real possibility in the future.

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?

This past year the Federal Government designated September 30th as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This date also became National Shirt Day, which has become a national movement and, a day to remember and reflect on the treatment of indigenous children at residential schools across Canada. The City of Peterborough raised the Every Child Matters flag alongside the City of Peterborough flag. Personally, I plan to review the 94 Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to work

with our partners at Curve Lake First Nation, and Hiawatha first Nation as a member of Peterborough City Council as appropriate.

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

The City of Peterborough and our many community partners are working to address this problem. The recent opening of the Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) located in the former Greyhound building on Simcoe St. is making a difference and is saving lives. The opening of this facility required approval from the Federal government and funding from the province. In addition, a Mobile Support Overdose Resource Team has been established. The frontline team includes a Community-based Paramedic, two Addictions Treatment Specialists and Harm Reduction Peer Outreach Workers who offer a range of support, health and treatment options for people. The MSORT team is an important community resource in place to assist people following an overdose.

These two initiatives are now in place to assist people who are dealing with addiction. Investing in harm reduction has an appreciable impact on reducing crime and improving the city's liveability. If re-elected I intend to keep working with local community groups and other levels of government to push for additional funding and more resources to help assist people-and their families-facing addiction.

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

Getting goods and services to market is essential for businesses. Many companies keep their inventories on trucks so it is important that an efficient transportation network is in place. The completion of the 407 highway makes trips to and from the GTA more timely, and therefore more cost effective. I voted in favour of improvements to Peterborough Regional Airport, which has given our region a competitive advantage over other cities poorly served by airplane. Moving goods and people using air travel is a competitive advantage we have over other cities. Our recent Cycling and Master Transportation Plans, will help shape the city's infrastructure and fiscal framework for decades to come.

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

Peterborough has an excellent police force. Under the leadership of the Chief of Police a number of community partnerships have been formed and fostered over many years. Business owners and the DBIA should be encouraged to reach out to the police and continue to have meaningful two-way dialogue. As a member of Council, I will continue to be supportive of our local police force, ensuring that the city provides the necessary resources to provide adequate and effective policing.

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

The City of Peterborough should lead by example. I supported City Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency, which requires that all projects and development be undertaken with an environmental and sustainability lens from conception to completion. The city could also facilitate the sharing of best practices in planning and building with business owners through educational seminars, and the facilitation of government sponsored grants for building retrofits.

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

- a. As a member of City Council, I will work to solidify a long-term plan for job creation and retention, and post-pandemic opportunities for the city.
- b. I would endorse a buy local initiative, that would support local businesses competitiveness.
- c. I would support initiatives that promote Peterborough as a destination of choice for tourism and recreational competitions. The recent Ontario 55+ Summer Games brought in an estimated \$200,000 economic activity for local businesses and is a prime example of the economic power offered by tourism and recreation.