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Ward-1 Otonabee Candidate

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

- To start we need to bring Peterborough up to a reasonable standard. We need to work with the Provincial and Federal Governments to Reduce Homelessness on our streets. We need to work with law enforcement to provide them with the tools to clean up the drugs and gun violence in the streets. At the same time as City Councillors, we will need to work on fixing the infrastructure and repairing the roads.
- We also need to be the masters of our own Destiny. We need to create and take ownership in creating more Gear to Income Housing to assist in reducing the shortages and bringing the demand down, by increasing the supply.

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

- We need to promote the beautiful Live/Work/Play environment of Peterborough City & County.
Displaying this as a vibrant place full of great Talent (Trent, Fleming, Seneca etc.) and due to its convenient location (between Ottawa and Toronto), it is a suitable place for Businesses to set up offices. (Tie that in with the Local Airport and expansion plans) We could position ourselves as an up-and-coming location for Companies to invest.

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?

- We need to build more housing, City Owned Housing or Sub-Divisions. We can no longer rely on Private Corporations to create “affordable” homes, or apartments. Therefore we are forced to take on the projects ourselves, starting with the development of the Old Canoe Museum property into Gear to Income Apartments and townhouses.
- The only way to create more affordable housing...is to create more housing. If we reduce the strenuous demand we will reduce the cost.

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?

- As a small business owner in Peterborough, I definitely understand the area’s need for more employment lands. We need to start by having open and transparent conversations with our bordering townships and work on growing the boundaries of Peterborough.
- We also need to get creative on the use of space we do have. (examples, Underground Parking versus large Parking Lots) creating more usable areas above ground.

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?

- 1) We always need to keep communication open and transparent and continue to have an ongoing dialogue.

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

- We need to create a definitive action plan using the three C's
 - Concern
 - Cause
 - Correction
- After we have a solution we need to work with all local, provincial and federal partners to activate the action plan. By doing this we will need to focus on
 - Immediate solutions (Increase councillors in the shelters, and increase shelter beds).
 - Temporary Solutions (Sleeping Cabins and other temporary housing)
 - Permanent Solutions (More Gear To Income Housing, Treatment/Rehab Facilities, More Social Resources etc.)

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

- Peterborough is in need of Infrastructure Upgrades (The Quality of our streets and roadways, will assist in safer and effective travel of people)
- Adjust Transit Routes and bus schedules to better align with the needs of the community
- Strategic planning to ensure we have proper Primary Arterial Roads to allow residents to travel north to south more effectively
- Ensure Traffic lights are synced and programmed for the most effective combination during peak hours

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?

- We need to ensure police and bylaw have the funding required to monitor the streets adequately
- We need to ensure we have programs in place to help reduce crime and vandalism/break-ins (adequate housing, councillors, etc)

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

- Peterborough City could engage local businesses in a program for EV Charging stations.

This idea could look several different ways

1) Peterborough City negotiates with EV Charging Companies for a reduced rate or “Group Buy Pricing” and allows merchants the option to buy chargers at a discount. (Stores would own the chargers and be responsible for it)

2) Peterborough City could partner with a company to provide the chargers and work with local businesses for installation locations (the City of Peterborough would pay and provide the chargers)

3) Peterborough could provide micro-loans or grants to local businesses who want to promote/adopt Green Energy/ Install Charging Stations/ Solar etc.

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

- A couple of things that would assist Peterborough Businesses, especially downtown businesses are
 - Repairing the roads downtown and around the city (Chemong Rd/ Lansdowne St) to make it more inviting to shoppers and visitors
 - Fixing the homelessness problem by creating more spaces and building more geared-to-income homes. This will help reduce the safety fears people have for travelling downtown or other areas to shop
 - In the name of attracting more out-of-town shoppers, the addition of vehicle charging stations near businesses will drive out-of-town traffic as people shop while they wait for a charge.

Overall we need to fix up and clean up the city. Peterborough is a beautiful place, but we need to work on a few key issues in order to be able to attract more tourism to the area.