TURKEY SHOOT OF A DEBATE

OSHAWA - On August 26th, 2026 Matthew Schaffer for Oshawa City Council Ward 3 hosted a meet and greet for all candidates plus a Mayoral candidate only debate.

Out of the 9 candidates registered. Four only showed up. Candidate Michael Coons, Dave Westlake, Henry Onwuachu and Jim Lee.

The event was well attended even though poorly advertised.

Around 60 - 70 people in attendance with a large number of Jim Lee supporters.

The event has audio issues as many could not be heard due to poor audio.

The debate hosted 6 questions

1. DOWNTOWN OSHAWA
2. TAXES AND SPENDING
3. RESPONSIBLE GROWTH
4. LEADERSHIP AND COUNCIL
5. WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE.
6. FIRST YEAR PRIORITY.

Simple questions that should have been easy to answer if prepared properly.

Well right from the get go. It appears that most on the panel had difficulty understanding the question. The answer appeared to be very vague and at times off topic.

Many presenting showed little or no preparation only empty promises.

Season politician Jim Lee, took the opportunity to assure the public that tax increases are coming and that he will do what he can to keep it as low as humanly possible. In other words. NOTHING.

The room was full of Lee supporters that quickly raise to praise Lee's status quo empty promises.

Jeff Davis, Oshawa Ward 4 candidate posted on Facebook.

I Attended the Ward 3 Mayoral meet and greet event organized by Matthew Schaffer for Oshawa City Council Ward 3 tonight. 4 Mayoral candidates attended and we will leave it up to your imagination why the others didn't.

Seating was randomized in advance and questions were answered in a randomized format so that candidates took turns being first speaker through last.

Limited time was available for further questions from the floor.

It was a first opportunity to meet and hear from 2 of the candidates. (Dave and Jim also attended the earlier meet and mingle hosted by Sylwia Lesner at the Polish Hall)

A number of non mayoral candidates were also in attendance from various Wards. Like other residents, they are also curious to compare Mayoral candidates.

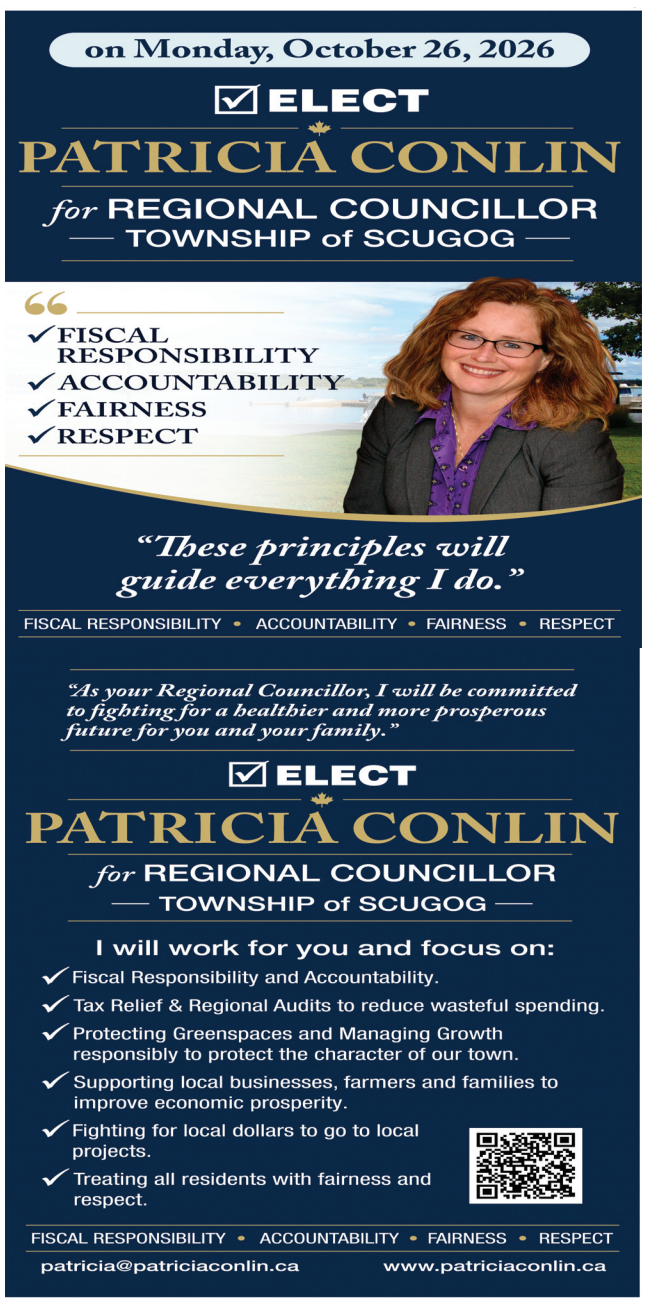
A well organized event. A good turnout.

It is also great to see the cooperative nature of the other candidates running across the City. We show a new willingness to build relationships and discuss issues that affect the various Wards. It makes me hopeful for a much better Council in the future where we ideas and perspectives to build a better Oshawa with more open minds.

Sylwia Lesner Ward 3 - Candidate for City Councilor for Ward 3 in Oshawa also posted:

It was a lovely pleasure to join the Mayoral Candidates Meet & Greet here in Ward 3.

I felt truly welcomed and appreciated the opportunity to be part of this event alongside fellow candidates from all Wards and community members.

Over all, this second debate turned out to be a disaster for new candidates.

The key to success is preparedness and the ability to stay away from empty promises for change.