

We Are Cobourg Timeline

The following is a timeline of how the Town Hall came into existence. Quite the blur to be honest!

July 29, 2023 – Public Security Meeting at the Salvation Army. I was totally unaware that my neighborhood had serious issues. Fact finding exercise begins.

August

Conduct interviews with neighbors, business owners, and residents of Cobourg. Read news reports, various publications, and court cases related to crime and drugs. Visit sites where unhoused are detected and do late night/early morning drive by and walkabouts all over Cobourg

Encampment forms upon the closure of the first problematic residence. Visit encampment and speak to “spokespersons”.

Have contact with various government and elected officials on what comes next.

Receive a text that “concerned citizens” are meeting at Victoria Park. Approximately 15 people are present. I speak to them regarding my intentions of presenting a delegation to the Council and/or the Police Services Board. Accidently provide wrong contact info to organizer.

September

Report of assaults, shootings, and theft increase. Confirm problematic residence exists on Battell. Speak to neighbours who confirm severity of the issues at hand.

Follow encampment movements and confirm reports of situation with government officials. Begin to research laws and rulings regarding Waterloo case.

Research opioid history and medical research on addiction. Review pros and cons of proposals such as safe injection, safe supply, harm reduction, and status of cities with similar issues.

Eviction notice published at the encampment. Nothing happens.

October

Review Cobourg Police Services reports regarding crime and proposed initiatives. Review presentation to Council of CPS 2022 Annual Report. Prepare delegation to CPS to voice my concerns.

Oct 17 – Present to Cobourg Police Board – 25 people in attendance. I thought I would be alone! Connect with group and suggest a town hall. They agree and promote on Facebook as I’m not platform.

Oct 19 – confirm Best Western as location. Room is set up for Dinner Theatre seating 240.

Oct 22 – create website and start pulling all the pieces of information for consideration.

Oct 26 – go on local radio 89.7 FM. 800 flyers distributed. Thank you, volunteers!

Oct 30-31 – Spend 27 hours on presentation while working regular job and home responsibilities.

Nov 1 – Max room capacity of 300 with estimated 200 overflow. Present for 2 hours with no practice or script.