

Responses of Cam Ecclestone

SOS Collingwood Questions for Candidates for Collingwood Town Council

1.) In order of priority how would you rank the top five (5) priorities for the Town of Collingwood over the next 4 years?

Working with the County to generate more Affordable Housing-Huge issue!!
Keep building reserves for Waste water plant-68% capacity with so much development we could be looking at a new facility in 8 to 10 years a 26mm build!
Need to up reserves for all Infrastructure roads-sewers-water mains etc
Need to continue to make Collingwood affordable-keep taxes in the 1% to 2% range
Ensure that we act on the advice contained in the Judicial Inquiries final report!

2.) Much has been said recently about the need for greater "Transparency" in how the Town conducts its affairs. What changes do you think are necessary to improve transparency in how Council, and Town staff, make decisions?

I just dont see transparency as an issue as all meetings are now streamed and all records are available to the public!

3.) What is your position on inter-governmental cooperation between the Town and its neighbouring municipalities (e.g. the Town of Blue Mountains, Clearview and Wasaga Beach) and where and how do you think such cooperation would most benefit Collingwood?

The 3 communities must absolutely come together on our Hospital Build with of course Ontario taking the lead- Christine Elliot at the AMO conference indicated that she understood the urgency!

4.) Collingwood is under intense development pressure like it has never seen before in its history. What increased complexities and pressures do you think this presents, and how will you ensure the Town's planning and building departments are equipped to address them? Are there any additional skills and experience you feel are required to manage these pressures?

Our current Planning staff will be able to handle the increase in development-although they are stretched they will be OK!

5.) The mounting development pressure in the Town is generating a heightened level of community interest in the Town's planning and development process and decisions. Do you think the Town has adequate public consultation processes in place to deal with these decisions or do you think changes are required, and if so, what changes?

I do feel that the town provides adequate public consultation-They stick to a rather tight regimen with the public consulted and have an opportunity to state their issues and the town has often gone back to the developers and ask for changes!

6.) The Town has recently approved a Waterfront Master Plan. What is your perspective on that plan? Do you think it contains the right priorities or are there changes you feel are required? Should its implementation be a priority for the new Council?

Firstly we need to get matching funding from both levels of Govt-Province and Feds-We have met with both to state our case-The implementation will be a priority and I believe the Splash Pad/Skating rink is planned for 2019-we will be able to use some funds from the sale of the second half of the Collus sale 12.5mm(most of this will go to paying down debt and building reserves and the sale of the Airport 4.1mm.. I am a proponent of retaining the terminal buildings and doing the repair work to keep the structures sound(8mm price tag over 5 years-When this work is completed i vision a Brew Pub at the east end and a glassed in outdoor elevator to the top(8 to 10 people) entering into a museum which will house our Ship building heritage and then on to 5 or 6 restaurants facing our Harbour-This would be a private/public undertaking financially.

7.) Both the Waterfront Master Plan and the Town's Official Plan state that the protection of Collingwood's sensitive wetlands and shoreline areas are a top priority. How would you rate Collingwood's performance in protecting these areas to date? Do you think Collingwood currently has appropriate processes and controls in place to protect these areas (especially from development), or do you think improvements are required, and if so, what improvements?

We would probably rate a D or an E here-I think that we should have the NVCA more involved here working with our Planners to precisely map out what must be protected and map it out-we just need an update on this!

8.) What role do you see Collingwood's protected wetland and shoreline areas playing in your vision of the Town's social, cultural and economic future?

I dont know that it would play into my vision but I do think that we need to protect our Wetland and reeded areas along the Waterfront

9.) SOS Collingwood has raised specific concerns regarding the recent development proposal for the Living Waters/Bear Estate property. While the developer has asked the Town of defer consideration of the application until 2019, a decision on the matter will likely come before Council early in its next term. What are your views on that proposal and what level of public consultation and input do you feel needs to occur?

I actually dont like the 6 stories-if economically viable 4 would be more acceptable-Next term we should just go back to the start with public consultation from your group and Larry Laws team and try to work out what is acceptable to both of you!