

Responses of Shawn Cooper

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?

I would rank the top five priorities for the Town of Collingwood over the next five years as:

- 1) Waterfront masterplan
- 2) Drastically needed road improvements
- 3) Protection of our natural environment
- 4) A focused approach to keeping taxes at an affordable level
- 5) Collaborative dialogue with all members and boards to achieve desired targets

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?

As a municipal councilor I would bring forward a notice of motion that unless staff recommends otherwise, and council accepts the advice, it will make public all closed meeting reports six months after they are tabled. I believe that this would be an improvement in transparency in how council and staff make decisions.

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?

As a former legislative assistant with the house of commons, I had the unique opportunity to work with all levels of government. I feel much can be achieved for the residents of our region when we work together. Collaboration between Collingwood, Clearview Township, Wasaga Beach and Town of The Blue Mountains will increase our opportunity to attract new projects such as a new hospital and transportation links.

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?

Collingwood is one of the top twenty-five fastest growing communities in Canada. Public consultation is essential before any development is approved. With high interest in our community and region by developers, the municipality needs to have stronger influence in its development. My background in consumer affairs at the corporate level has provided me the ability to work with the stakeholders in Collingwood to find solutions to the challenges of change.

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 feel there is always room for improvement with regards to public consultation. Council should exhaust all opportunities possible for public dialogue, on line surveys, neighbourhood conversations and community information sessions.

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?

I have reviewed the waterfront masterplan and the town's official plan, I feel that it is a powerful document, I would like to see the plan executed. I would look to add a weekend seasonal bylaw officer to protect our parks from damage, misuse and to enforce our littering bylaws. The implementation of the waterfront master plan should be a priority for the new council.

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?

Protection of Collingwood's wetlands must be a priority. I would work with the expertise of the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority, Collingwood's environment network and various other accredited environment advocacy organizations when developing a plan.

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?

The inherent responsibility of the council is to improve and protect the quality of life for the future generations of Collingwood. Many people are drawn to

the area because of our waterfront and the natural beauty of our region. Tourists enjoy the opportunity of spending time near the water. Our waterfront should drive our economy.

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?

Concerns regarding the recent proposal changes by Living Waters should explore every avenue of consultation. The Town of Collingwood should consult the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority to determine the potential impact of change.