

## **Responses of Bob Madigan**

### **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?**

This is a great question, but it must be addressed by the next Council. Priorities must be discussed and agreed upon in order for them to get traction with our community. I believe in general that controlled residential development, infrastructure, waterfront master plan implementation, ( your turn to add 2 more!) will be high priorities of the next Council.

#### **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?**

It seems that many feel our current Council has not been transparent. Yes, there have been in-camera meetings but this Council made a major shift in how information is shared with the community. The last four years have seen a Standing Committee system instituted which allows every citizen the opportunity to speak via a scheduled deputation or a free period at the end of the meeting to discuss any topic which is of concern to them. Can we do better? The answer will always be YES - we need to engage more with our citizens and perhaps Ad Hoc committees or more Advisory Committees may be necessary - that will be a decision for the next Council.

Also, this term of Council has seen all Council and Standing Committees available via live streaming - all citizens are able to become aware of what is happening in the community.

#### **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?**

Cooperation between Collingwood and our neighbouring municipalities is important with mutually beneficial issues such as transportation( bus routes and highway development) ,hospital redevelopment and potential Tourism initiatives.

**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?**

As you know Collingwood has been designated as a growth node by both the Province and the County of Simcoe. Our next Council will need to decide how it wishes to grow and that will influence its negotiations with future/current developers. We do have some tools within our toolkit in order to negotiate with developers - we will need a strategy to ensure that Collingwood benefits from their involvement with our community. Our Planning and Building Department have excellent staff who review and make recommendations to Council. As many projects receive approval and progress at different rates we should aim to develop better communication regarding the stages of development.

**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 agree that development pressure is currently increasing in the Town but feel we currently have several avenues to not only acquire information but become engaged in the dialogue of development.

**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?**

The Waterfront Master Plan was developed with extensive opportunity for community engagement. Public input was sought, analyzed and taken back to the public for further comment. This is the first comprehensive plan for our waterfront from White's Bay to beyond Sunset Point. The plan is ambitious and contains planned phases over 15 years (?). As the implementation becomes reality, both the PRC department and the community may well have opportunity to refine the projects and development of the waterfront. This plan should be a living document.

**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?**

The sensitive wetlands have been a top priority for many Councils. We are fortunate to have organizations such as the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust for input and recommendations as well as critical analysis of potential developments.

**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?**

Collingwood's shoreline is our greatest natural asset. This shoreline is a major reason many people choose to move to Collingwood-lifestyle on Georgian Bay. We need to respect our sensitive areas and plan any developments with respect for both the waterfront and the developers.

**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?**

My answer is quite a simple one. Any planned development should not come at a cost to their neighbours if at all possible.