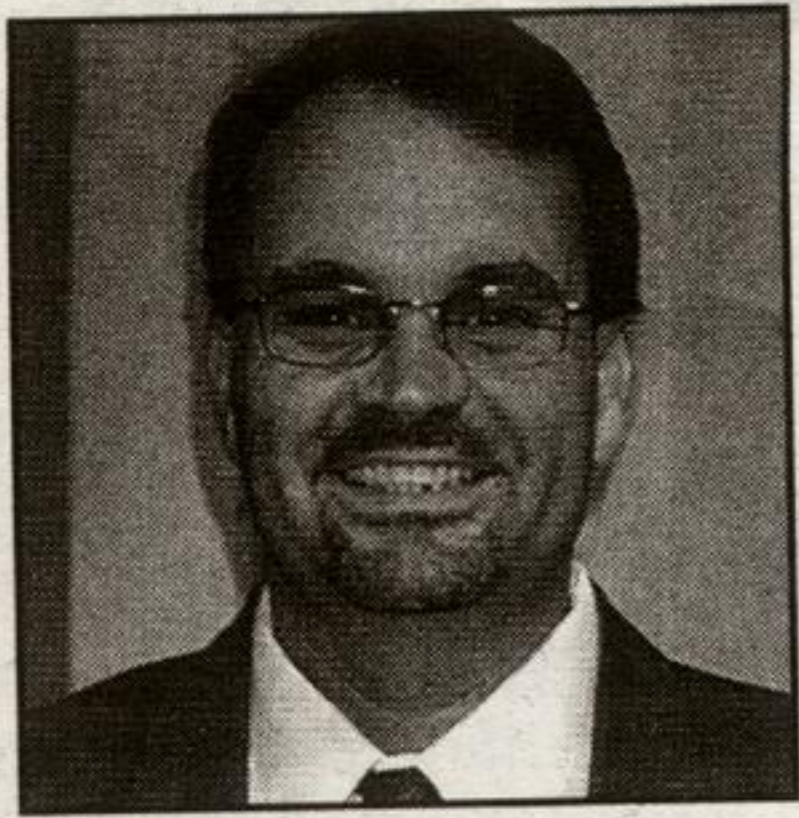


Guelph/Wellington candidates answer queries

1. Climbing tax rates has been a major issue for area residents. How would you propose to keep control of rate hikes?
2. Communication is always a major issue with Guelph/Eramosa residents. How will you ensure your constituents have input to your decisions?
3. What qualifications can you offer voters as a reason to support your election bid?
4. What, in your opinion, is the major issue council will need to deal with over the next term?



DOUG BREEN

1. Obviously, increasing costs of any kind when it comes to one's home are a concern for every resident, myself included. During my time on council, major studies have been undertaken to identify the needs and priorities for the township now, and in anticipation of significant population growth, primarily within Rockwood. These long term plans have, and will continue to, allow the necessary work to be done in an orderly fashion with the added fiscal responsibility of ensuring that expenditures are consistent, related to revenues and within our ability to carry the cost. In short, we know where we need to go, we have a map, and we know what it will cost to

get there.

2. The most effective communication is two way. I live in Ward 3. I shop in Ward 3. I attend community, church, school, and sports events. I sit on committees with the public. Dozens of residents of the township have taken these opportunities to discuss issues, concerns and satisfactions with me. I welcome any other individuals who may have opinions that they have not yet voiced to call me at 856-1131, or speak with me at one of the many public functions which occur within the township. In addition, I intend to visit as many constituents as possible between now and election day to facilitate the sharing of

opinions and information.

3. Even before my first term on council, I was and continue to be, an active participant in the public committee system. Some of my committee experiences have been: Parks Recreation and Culture, LACAC, Fire Advisory, and the recent Groundwater Protection study. I work tirelessly as a councillor. For every four hour council meeting, there is twice that amount of time invested in making sure I'm ready to represent the residents on the issues on the agenda. My professional experiences in the golf business have made me a better councillor. I am presently responsible for the budgeting, management and human resources for

the turf department of twelve golf courses. The experience in delegation, people management, and fiscal control have uniquely prepared me for my council duties. I live here. I intend to die here. My wife and I chose to raise our family here, and I care intimately what kind of home this is for my family, and all the other families in the township. I have an open, honest, available style of governing on behalf of all constituents within Rockwood, Ward 3, and the township.

4. There are no minor issues. Every issue on every agenda is a major issue to someone, and deserves the same amount of respect, attention, and discernment, whether there is one person who cares,

or a jam packed gallery. What I have found, however, is that some issues affect more people, and therefore, attract more attention. The issues that consistently generate concern are: safety and security, fiscal responsibility, and controlled intelligent development. I believe that people want to live in the kind of environment that attracted my family to settle here, and continues to attract others. To accomplish this, the plans and priorities established need to be followed, so that the finances of the township can be properly utilized to successfully maintain the benefits we have now and to facilitate the orderly growth forecasted for our township in the future.



TERESSA GIBSON SMYE

1. Keep control of tax rates. Better utilization of resources within the system. Review all staffing, expenditures and use of outside consulting services. Hiring freeze. Review acquisition of new equipment until a need for it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the residents. Have the books audited

with a focus on finding efficiencies

2. Communication is always a major issue. Constituent input into decisions.

People should be allowed to speak at council without having to be put on an agenda after the fact. Surveys, flyers, web site and email are all effective

tools, avoiding delays and giving immediate feedback to council on issues. Township advertising needs to be evaluated periodically to determine effectiveness. Township needs to be more user friendly. Being a good listener is one of my strengths.

3. I care; resident of area since

1989; established a small business in Rockwood 1995; extensive volunteer service; project oriented; strong listening skills; diverse education - attended U of Guelph - Public Administration U of Waterloo, Economic Development: Wilfrid Laurier - Business; Conestoga College, most recent

Municipal Law Clerks Program, project oriented.

4. Excessive taxation and its negative impact on our community for the present and future. Our taxes are the highest in the county - per capita with no relief in sight based on the current spending patterns and administrative costs.

Ward Four election candidates answer questions



DAVID HINDLEY

1. Maintaining a fair tax rate while providing services and infrastructure is always an issue. There are some things local council can control and some that we cannot control. Assessment can't be controlled by local government but taxes paid by residents are based to a large extent on assessment. The 2003 budget was set with a 2% increase from 2002 due to assessment from new growth, and from reassessment; however, the mill rate dropped. The County of Wellington controls 50 cents of your total tax dollar - your 3 County Council reps., Archie MacRobbie, Gord Tosh and our Mayor, are the only ones that have input on that budget. Thirty cents of your total tax dollar is controlled by the Board of Education. Your local Guelph-Eramosa Township budget represents

20-23% of your total tax dollar. This is what we CAN control. I would look for innovative ways to cut or hold costs in all areas of Township services; however, we have to walk a fine line between providing services, building and maintaining our infrastructure like roads and bridges, and, setting aside reserves. The Township has a 10 Year Plan for roads, parks and recreation, and that plan was created with public input and direction. We have set our priorities and these have costs associated with them, and those need to be continuously reviewed and revised if necessary.

2. I've always said the best way to communicate with people is to listen first. On any matter that is brought before Council, there is a cause and effect. To me, good communication with my con-

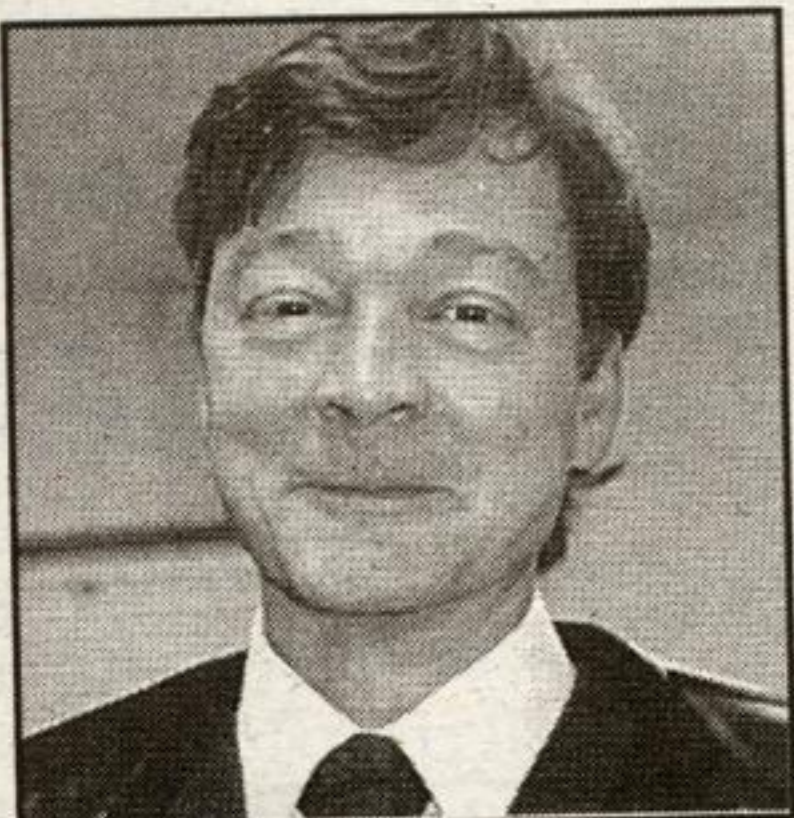
stituents means keeping the lines of dialogue open; ensuring Council agendas, minutes, reports and reviews are always well circulated to the public through our libraries, on our website, and our Township office; encouraging people to bring their concerns not only to me but to attend council meetings; ensuring that public meetings are held on key issues concerning all residents; taking the time to listen and hear all concerns before making an informed decision. It is also important to me that our Township staff provide excellent customer service to our residents, and give them information and assistance in a timely manner. Our staff are often the first point of contact for our residents and there is always room for improvement in terms of customer service and

communication. The Township website is not serving as a good communication tool right now. It is important to me that the website is revised so that it is a useful tool for our residents.

3. I am a good listener; I work well with budgets and finances; I am a team player who works well with people from all walks of life; I do not represent the interests of one part of my Ward or Township - I see the big picture and have the best interests of both our rural and urban residents of our Township at heart. I use common sense, I am straight-forward, and have a no-nonsense approach. Residents encouraged me to run in this election for these reasons, and because they believed I did a good job when I served on Council from 2000-2002. I

appreciate the confidence and support, and I am dedicated to work towards unity, progress, and pride in our Township.

4. It is hard to define 1 major issue because so many projects and issues are connected to each other. I believe the major issues are improving infrastructure; marketing the township; building reserves; and, maintaining a fair tax base. Developers are always an ongoing issue, particularly in areas like Rockwood Ridge and Everton, and water and sewage rates are a concern in the older parts of Rockwood. The motto on my election flyers and signs is "Working Towards Unity, Progress, and Pride in our Township" and that sums up the direction I take in dealing with the work and issues before Council this term.



LARRY STAFFORD

1. By cutting out unnecessary spending. For example, we have just paid for a new fire hall which is 42% bigger than the size recommended by the firehall committee. This was based on projected growth over the next 20 years. Since our current sewage capacity is almost full, any growth of this significance is not likely to happen until the sewage problem is resolved. We have paid to put the cart before the horse. Another area where we could save is eliminating costly consultant fees and surveys. Three years

ago, as a member of Rocket Rockets soccer club, we approached council for a soccer field. The Catholic school board was willing to lease us land for \$1 a year if the twp would install goalposts and seed the field for us. This proposal was denied. The results were a \$50,000 Park and Recs survey telling us we need a new soccer field and the commonsense observation that our playground equipment was inadequate. Finally, the tendering process is an area that needs considerable improvement. It's time to get back to the

meat and potatoes of government, Let's eliminate the cake.

2. I would like to propose that no major project, or one of concern to a specific area, would go ahead without proper consultation (eg, mailings, or if need be telephone or email). I would like to see a limited 'roving council', that is, when major issues or budget issues are being decided on, move council to either the Marden or Rockmosa community centres to allow easier access for all constituents. I would also propose a more up-to-date newsletter and easier

access to all council meetings notes.

3. No formal background in politics, but a lot of energy, willingness to serve, and an open mind. Having many years experience in the retail and service industries, one develops the ability to listen, learn and deliver the goods to the client. I consider that my constituents are in effect hiring me, and this skill set will come in handy: I can listen to them, find out what they really think and want, and take that information to council. Also, as noted in the flier I

handed out through Ward 4, I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Chemistry from University of Guelph. In my current role as custodian at Rockwood Centennial public school, I deal daily with the office of the Upper Grand School Board, so I have a certain amount of experience with and tolerance for dealing with bureaucracy.

4. Simple - winning back the trust of the constituents, that council will do the right thing when representing their constituents.



CHRIS WHITE

1. Recent tax hikes are the single most important issue we face in this campaign. At a time of rising prices for utilities, gas and other necessities, a rise in the tax rate is the last thing you need - especially for those on a fixed income. Guelph/Eramosa now has the highest tax rate in the county - 14.9% higher than the average. Past money spent cannot be recovered, however in the future, every penny of taxpayers money must be watched over very carefully. Obviously, the infrastructure and other important township services must be maintained, but "nice-to-have" projects must be delayed until our tax rates decline considerably. Each township service and department needs to be reviewed and intelligent choices made on how we can do things better with less

money. I propose we begin reviewing all township spending across the board and then establish some realistic goals allowing us to reduce that spending.

2. We are elected to represent the people of our Wards and to be the spokesperson for their needs and concerns. While a councillor must demonstrate leadership, input from the community is essential. You cannot properly represent people without their input. There are several ways I can do this: 1) I will be easy to contact - my phone number and e-mail will be available to all members of the community. 2. I will be a visible member of the community. As a councillor, I would frequently go out into the community and make contact with people in order to understand their con-

cerns. 3) I would ensure regular town hall meetings 4) I would establish a continually updated web site that would outline Town Council Meetings and other current issues.

3. I have a very diversified school, work and business background that has provided me with the skills that are well-suited to a position as Town Councillor. I have earned a BA from the University of Toronto and I am a Certified ISO Auditor. My work experience has included: 8 years at IBM in marketing, 7 years in the food service industry and 6 years as a Quality Manager for J.B. Hunt Transportation. I am currently an Associate Publisher in my own small publishing firm. I have traveled extensively throughout North America on business and al-

ways made a point of studying the local government, the issues they faced and how they resolved them. I have also dealt directly with government both in the food service industry and in running my own business. I understand what it is like to be on the receiving end of government decision making, both good and bad. The net of all this is that I have extensive real world, managerial, financial and human resource experience that will allow me to add a knowledgeable, fresh perspective to council.

4. There are several issues that face the next council. We have a new provincial government and we will soon have a new federal one, both of which will require strong representation from council. Farmers are facing several major issues, there are

sewage and water issues, development pressures and growing urbanization to the south of us and a major waste treatment plant going in on the Eramosa River. However, if a single issue had to be picked, it is finances. We have taxes that are too high and a growing debt. In fact, Guelph/Eramosa has the highest annual tax rate in the County! - 14.9% higher than the county average \$ 274.63 per person vs. \$ 238.32. That works out to almost \$40 dollars more for each man, woman and child. It will require a great deal of financial skill and political will to resolve this issue. As mentioned above, I propose we begin reviewing all township spending across the board and then establish some realistic goals allowing us to reduce that spending.