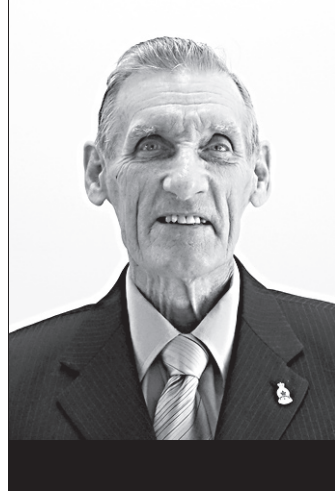



Municipal Candidates have their say

One-term Mayor Chris White is seeking re-election to Guelph/Eramosa Township Council, and faces challenger, former mayor Clint Martin, who was defeated by White in the 2006 vote.

With one acclamation – Ward one, first-time Councilor-elect David Wolk – there are 4 people running for the two Rockwood seats on Guelph/Eramosa Township Council.

We asked the mayoralty candidates the following questions:

CANDIDATE	#1 - Faced with provincial planning policies which will target this area for growth, what will you do to help prevent urban sprawl and loss of prime agricultural land?	#2 - What would you do to ensure that the multi-million reconstruction of Highway 7 next year is done with minimum disruption to residents and businesses?	#3 - What should voters know about you? What skills do you bring to the table to advocate for voters?	#4 - How would you meet taxpayer demands for fiscal responsibility, yet not cut programs or services?	#5 - If elected, you have four years. What do you want to accomplish?
<p>Clint Martin</p> 	<p>I don't think we should expand the boundaries of the village, at all. That's number one. There are places you can put houses out in the country where you've got a small spot that too small to farm, with an acre here and an acre there with in-filling opportunities available. The big thing is, don't go looking for trouble.</p>	<p>I've worked on construction of highways and it's like playing checkers. You have to work at it to the best advantage you can get. Rockwood is not as easy place to do that, but there are some sections where you can do that and dodge the traffic.</p>	<p>I have experience, honesty and integrity. I'm running on honesty and accountability and I do have experience with many things to do with this Township and the County. Our main job is (looking after) roads, transportation issues and services within the village, and I've got experience in all those and probably am the only one running that had.</p>	<p>Zero budgeting – I think you can do better than that. First of all, you cut the make-work projects out and you go back to the 2001 staff level. That will save you a lot of money that you could put towards roads and whatever else you need, including staff for parks.</p>	<p>I would bring more of the same as my first term as mayor – an open door policy – that's important. We've never had water and waste water commissions and we never had parks commissions and I pushed for that last time, and I couldn't get it because I had three votes against me and one vote with me. To do stuff for people, you've got to have cooperation with people and the rest of council and I intend to make sure I get that this time.</p>
<p>Chris White Incumbent</p> 	<p>In our township, planning authority rests first with the county and ultimately with the province. We have worked with county and the province to prevent more urban sprawl in Rockwood and wish to remain a rural township. As for Agricultural land, all of our agricultural land is designed as "prime" land and cannot be developed easily. We have fought any encroachments on those lands and any new homes are directed to our hamlets or villages.</p>	<p>We have worked closely with the MTO to minimize the disruption during the reconstruction. We insisted that the road remain open and the MTO have agreed to that. (There may be a two or three week period when the Highway will be closed for a culvert). We have had a full public meeting on the issue with over 300 attendees and will provide an opportunity for people to have some input into the construction schedule so the business and residence can plan around that schedule.</p>	<p>I have been on council for seven years now, and Mayor for the last four. I have come to realize that the best way to get things done is through partnerships. My education and employment have provided a solid foundation for the position. I have a BA from the University of Toronto; I have worked at IBM, in the hospitality industry and as an ISO auditor. The use of those skills has resulted in important partnerships for our community, like the Medical Centre and the Athletic Centre.</p>	<p>Managing the budget is the most important job of a Mayor and Council. We have developed a rigorous budget process, with public input and we have fostered partnerships to help us keep taxes at inflation. Items like insurance and provincial legislation continue to add to our costs; therefore we must watch the budget closely, while maintaining the services our folks want and need.</p>	<p>Maintain tax rates at or below inflation. Try to expand commercial, industrial and office tax base, especially along highway 124. Continue to work to have Guelph bus service in our township. Support seniors with a day room at Rockmosa. Create a township wide sign plan (e.g. Welcome to Guelph/Eramosa plus identification for local business and services).</p>

Rockwood - Ward 3

Rockwood - Ward 4

<p>Doug Breen Incumbent</p> 	<p>Teresa Gibson Smye</p> <p>PHOTO NOT SUPPLIED</p>	<p>Steve Liebig</p> 	<p>John Scott Incumbent</p> 
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