



## Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



# Darrell Toms

## Councillor Ward 2

The Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce is the recognized voice of business in the Municipality of Port Hope. We support all businesses, not just our close to 200 members, and play a key role in advocating on their behalf regarding decisions made by levels of government that may impact them.

These questions are being asked as background research to form individual question(s) for our meet the candidate events and to keep the business community informed of your outlooks with regard to the future of the Municipality of Port Hope. Please be advised that your responses will be shared in full or in part with the community through our membership, community publications and Social Media networks.

### **1.What is your plan for the municipality over the next 4 years?**

My plan over the next 4 years is a simple one it is to bring the concerns of the residents of ward two to the council expressing all their concerns and ideas.

### **2.What do you believe is the biggest issue facing the business sector in the municipality and how do you plan to address it?**

I think the biggest issue facing the business sector in the municipality is the state of the economy right now. We are still rebounding from covid nineteen, cost of living and inflation on the rise local businesses cost are up significantly across the board witch directly impacts their customer base intern has a greater effect on them with costs of goods and services up it makes it hard for the avg family to support local

### **3.Explain your understanding of economic development and describe the significance to our community**

Economic development is a process of improving quality of life, social well being, economic growth and sustainability. I believe the significance of this to our community starts with being politically stable! A community that has trust in its leadership is already on its way to better economic development!

**4. The downtown core is an integral part of the business community, however there are businesses throughout the municipality including but not limited to, home based and Agri business. What do you believe the municipality can do to support the business throughout the entire community and not just the downtown core?**

We need to support all forms of businesses in the community especially our rural businesses as most of these are not in high traffic areas. I would like to start by creating a larger social media presence where our local business gets equal representation via free advertising on the platform. We create a business registry for the municipality to let residents know exactly what is available to them shared on the municipality website and social media platforms

**5. The municipality has been restructuring and reconsidering their approach to economic development, building, and planning. What do you think the best thing the municipality can do in the short mid and long term to better support growth and development in a fair timely and financially sound way?**

One of the biggest issues we need to overcome is Port Hope has a stigma attached to it that we are hard to do business with. It is important that we change this perception of our town to ensure future development. I believe the best way we accomplish this is through our building and planning department. We need to offer incentives and programs to get companies interested in doing business in port hope. Streamline the department and its processes. A clear user-friendly guide. Processing permits and applications quickly. Presenting a positive willing to help attitude when working with the public. This is just a start and will go along way to improving a currently broken system.

**6. Agriculture and rural businesses are a key piece of the economic viability of this community. What do you think the municipality should be doing better to support this sector**

The agricultural and rural businesses of our community could be better supported by the municipality through a strong marketing program, another idea could be the introduction of agricultural tours highlighting our local farms to the rest of our community. Developing a mentorship program for rural businesses. We could adopt a similar approach to ATVs as our surrounding municipalities this could be a fantastic opportunity for the thousands of users who are cut off from rural businesses due to lack of trail access and use because of our current bylaws.