



## Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



John Bickle

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?**

I will work to make Port Hope a great place to work and live. I would like to see the building department streamlined so more business would come and set up shop here. We have a lot happening in our community from the Ruth Clark Centre to main st. redevelopment and the new announcement of Loyalist College to new fire Hall in Welcome.

### **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 see help wanted signs in windows everywhere. We need more housing for people to fill the jobs.

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

Economic Development happens when a community is growing and new industry + shops come to town it shows we make a vibrant growing place to live and work and play.

**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-businesses. What do you believe the municipality can do to support the businesses throughout the entire community and not just in the downtown core?**

All business should be treated the same whether its on Lakeshore, the main st. or on the 10<sup>th</sup> line. They may be different, but they are ALL THE SAME.

**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?**

Keep a line on spending and keep taxes at a level that will serve our needs and keep projects within budget.

**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 to better support this sector?**

Farmers tend to rent more land than they own, taxes need to be kept in line, so land rent does not get out of control. Landowners set rent in line with taxes in order to pay them. Rural business cannot be taxed out of business; more business more jobs will lead to a great place to live, work and play.