



Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



Les Andrews Councillor Ward 1

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?

The newly elected Council will face a continuum of issues unresolved or only partially resolved by the previous Council. Here is a list of the topics the incoming Council will have to deal with:

- Assisting businesses during the Walton Street rebuild.
- Resolving the Victoria Street Woodlot dilemma
- Implementing the Additional Residential Unit builds
- Implementing the recommendations of the Riverwalk Waterfront Working Group
- Developing a five-year financial budget
- Moving forward the rebuild of the Walton Hotel and the Royal Bank
- Working with CNL throughout the remediation process Department to expedite building permits
- Implementing an Economic Development Plan
- Optimizing our Public Transit System
- Finding a site for a new Long Term Care facility

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 feel the biggest issue the business sector faces is its inability to market itself effectively.

Businesses need to know who they are selling to and what their customers want to buy.

Here's an example, we have many visitors who come to view the salmon. In some cultures seeing a jumping fish is considered good luck. How many of our retailers have "salmon" related items for sale?

I would suggest that the Municipality, make available, a professional marketing firm that businesses could go to, to seek advice and explore ideas. Similarly, businesses should have access to Companies specializing in Social Media and online marketing.

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

Economic Development improves the economic well-being of those who live and work within our community.

It includes fostering business growth, creating jobs, attracting the requisite labour force and ensuring a partnership with the appropriate educational institutes to ensure a well-trained workforce is available.

One major obstacle to economic development is the availability of affordable housing for the expanding work force.

A partial solution could come from Additional Residential Units, permitting up to three living units per residential site.

- 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?**

Businesses outside the downtown core need reliable access to the internet. They would also benefit by having the ability to discuss their business concerns with marketing and social media professionals. I think we would better spend our money utilizing professionals versus running broad-based workshops.

- 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 ?**

We could speed up the building application process if we developed comprehensive documentation, that those wishing to build/add to their properties, could follow, without going back and forth with our planners. We have had a huge growth in the number of applications which taxes our limited planning resources. We need to develop efficiencies, to minimize the red tape, during the building application process.

- 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?**

The Municipality should be doing all it can, to facilitate reliable, rural internet service. With the Loyalist College announcement, of a satellite campus here in Port Hope, initially, 126 students will be enrolled in agri-based courses, This will provide both a part-time and future labour force for Agri based businesses.