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Why Should YOU Run?

By Doug Wellman

As I reflect on the topic of running for Municipal Office, I think back to when I ran for Council and was successful in 1991, when I became the Ward 1 Local Councillor in Pickering. Back then, terms were three years and when I ran again in 1994, I moved up to running for the Regional Councillor position. I was defeated by the Incumbent, so I was a "One-Term-Wonder". Regardless, the whole experience was wonderful. Campaigning allowed me to get out into the Community and talk with my neighbours ... find out their concerns ... develop a Campaign strategy ... brochure ... signs ... and what I was going to try and do to better my Community. It didn't cost a lot and when I figured out the five planks of my Platform (what I was going to do if elected) ... it didn't take long for a group of fellow Citizens who wanted to help me go out and knock on doors with my material, host some coffee/donut get-togethers and help me get people to vote for me. I really believed that, if elected, I could make a difference.

At the end of it all, I think I did make a difference. I was fortunate to be part of a Council that was committed to getting things done. The previous Council (1988-91) was constantly against each other and everything was deferred or expensively sent to the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) for arbitration. We didn't agree on everything, but we did move forward and had a respect for one another that allowed progress. As I look back on it, being elected to Municipal Office (Council) was the ultimate in Community Service. It embraced all the platitudes of Service Clubs (Lions/Seniors/Legion/etc.) as you were asked to help Citizens going through their 'Circles of Life' and its ups-and-downs. Wow! What a wonderful experience.

It also was a tremendous education in the Municipal Process and the way local government is allowed to function through Provincial Regulation. There was lots of reading between meetings ... spending time with Municipal Staff to become familiar with it all ... time researching the details of items on the Council Agenda. My 'Resume' became significantly more extended and my profile in the Community enhanced. Today, 24 years later, I still have people acknowledge me when I am out in the Community.



So, I encourage you to get involved and run for Office in 2018. You can go to the Municipal Office May 1st and get the forms to 'Register' as a Candidate and be on the Ballot on Voting Day – Monday, October 22nd. **If you feel it, DO IT!!!**

Doug Wellman is continuing to provide service to the public as the Co-Chair of the North Kawartha Lakes Association (NORKLA).

More election news: Beginning this year in North Kawartha, there will be **no paper ballots**. Voting will only occur online or via touch-tone telephones. If you don't have access, you can come into either of the local public libraires to vote between October 9 and 22.

Also, if you want to run for municipal office or the school board, the Nomination and Campaign Period begins on **May 1, 2018**. The last day you can file your nomination is July 27. Don't forget that there will be an **Ontario Election on June 7, 2018**, with the official campaign period beginning on May 9, 2018.

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