

Why Am I Running for Mayor?

Over the last four years, it's been my honour to work with you as your Mayor to address some of the top health care, public safety, environmental and governance concerns of this community. I am proud that I was able to bring in a new doctor to the community, revitalize the fire department, arranged for graduated speed zones on Hwy 620, Jack Lake Road and County Road 504 and the installation of permanent radar speed signs in the school safety zone and started releasing more detailed financial statements so you know exactly where your municipal tax dollars are going.

But I know that there is more work to be done, which is why I look to you for a second mandate. Over the next four years, I will passionately pursue the following: I resolve to address the housing shortage for youth and seniors; I will continue to focus on addressing the Master Plan and Community Improvement Plan, shoreline development and redevelopment, along with the looming rework of the Peterborough Official Plan and the rewriting of the Township Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws.

In addition I am very concerned about the continual Provincial downloading. The Township is constantly being forced to take on the costs of services that were previously provided by the Province. Also, the cost to maintain and operate Township facilities continues to rise; a quick look at your own hydro bill and you understand the challenges we are facing. I am committed to providing all the services the community needs, while finding ways to take on these new obligations.

With all that is going on within the world, I recognize how hard it is to trust politicians. As a business person first and a politician second, it is my goal to build greater trust through transparency and the engaging of constituents in the resolutions of our mutual concerns - "working together is so important". I will continue to conduct community workshops and push for the creation of community committees to help provide direction to Council. With this openness and transparency, I want to ensure Council is working on the right priorities.

As more people are retiring here, I am eager to look to the future of North Kawartha working on the Master Plan and the Community Improvement Plan. It is necessary to proactively work towards planning goals rather than leaving it to evolution, otherwise the services we will need going forward will not be in place.

With our aging population and rural environment, I see the necessity for there to be an expansion of health/social/community services available in our Township. I have worked hard to restructure the Health Centre and bring a physician to our Community. The nurse practitioner and physician are excited to work together to provide the best possible care. Community Care plays a very important "health maintenance" role in our Community. As it moves to provide an expanding role it will require increased endorsement to meet the changing needs of our Community.

Given my successful track record of leadership within the community, I'm confident that if you re-elect me as mayor, we will succeed in addressing these issues.

Rick Woodcock, Mayor, North Kawartha Township

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An Open Letter to Rick Woodcock

Dear Mayor Rick:

I didn't vote for you in the last election. I liked our previous council, and I thought they had been doing a pretty good job. Apparently you felt differently - you ran on a platform of "Municipal Transparency", implying that our council wasn't being open or responsive. You claimed that you would "respond to concerns in a timely manner and limit closed door decisions".

Well, I sure found out what your promises are worth in a big hurry. When I had problems with the road work being done in front of my house on Jeff Road, I sent you an email with my concerns. Little did I realize that I was wasting my time - once you were elected, the only concerns you were going to respond to were those of a small group of your friends and neighbours on Chandos Lake.

Property stakes went missing all up and down Jeff Road. Trees that were well over on my side of the survey line got cut down. On multiple occasions, the school bus was unable to pick up my kids because the road was closed with no advanced notice. One day they even blew up my driveway without telling us beforehand. And when I emailed you with these concerns, you couldn't even be bothered to respond. I do get that as a non-waterfront resident, you consider me a second-class citizen, but it would have been nice if you could have pretended to care. Then again, why should you? I'm not on the CLPOA executive, so obviously my voice doesn't deserve to be heard.

As a former CEO, I'm sure you're used to being rewarded for doing nothing. But being the mayor of this township is different; you can't just fumble along aimlessly for four years and then expect to keep your job. Besides trying to pass a bunch of bylaws nobody wants, you really haven't accomplished much of anything since you were elected. Meanwhile, the sides of Jeff Road are still littered with stumps and shot rock because we "ran out of money" during construction, but you made sure there would be money available in the budget to repave the road in front of your own house next year.

Must be nice to be mayor!

Mark Wright, North Kawartha