

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON
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CANDIDATES FOR THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS REMOVE THEIR ELECTION SIGNS TO PROMOTE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

BLUE MOUNTAINS, ONTARIO –A majority of the candidates for various positions on the Town of The Blue Mountains Council have decided to remove their election signs from public rights of way in a bold statement against how the campaign has been waged so far and in the spirit of promoting a Brighter Future.

Over the past few weeks candidates and municipal staff have been pre-occupied by issues relating to signs. Bylaw staff and candidates have dealt with false complaints of signs not having the requisite municipal sticker, vandalism, theft of signs, and even a complaint based on an incorrect legal interpretation of the Town of The Blue Mountains sign bylaw for which the Town was required to seek “further legal interpretation of the wording as set out”. This has distracted the candidates and staff from dealing with the important issues facing the Town and is reminiscent of the petty squabbling and lack of leadership which has dominated Council for far too long.

The ***Candidates for a Brighter Future***, say ENOUGH ALREADY!!!!

To demonstrate their commitment and put an end to this nonsense, the ***Candidates for a Brighter Future*** have decided to pull all of their signs from public rights of way. If elected, they will pass a bylaw to restrict election signs to private property only.

The ***Candidates for a Brighter Future*** will be removing their signs from public property and relocating them in a “Field for a Brighter Future” (North of Foodland in Thornbury). All in the community who are committed to working for a brighter future for the Town of the Blue Mountains are invited to join them at 12 noon on Tuesday, October 9, (North of Foodland in Thornbury) for a community celebration to help erect these signs and send a positive message for a Brighter Future.

The Candidates for a Brighter Future invite all other candidates in the election to follow their leadership on this issue and contribute their signs to this cause.

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For more information regarding this media release:

Peter Bordignon, Candidate for Council
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Alar Soever, Candidate for Mayor
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Rob Sampson, Candidate for Council
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What are the individual *Candidates for a Brighter Future* saying about this?

A. The Candidates have this to say:

CANDIDATE	CANDIDATE COMMENTS
Alar Soever	“It is great to see so many candidates who are willing to take bold decisive action to solve a problem. This bodes well for a Brighter Future”.
Peter Bordignon	“A municipal election should be about planning and having the right team to lead our town into the future, not just about a name in a sign. I now find that with the Town and even the current Mayor getting directly involved with election signs is a waste of municipal resources I am pulling my authorized signs from public property as our electorate can decide on their elected officials based on platforms and performance. I will also commit to passing a new election sign bylaw for the 2022 election to be allowed on private property only.”
Paula Hope	““The public perception of signs is that they are visually disruptive, not environmentally friendly and wasteful. Kudos to the “ Brighter Future” candidate group for demonstrating its convictions through action. I am proud to be a part of the team.”
Andrea Matrosovs	“This is an example of the kind of team work and commitment that I look forward to seeing in the new Council. I hope all 16 candidates accept the invitation to join us on Tuesday and in committing to changing the bylaw to allow no signs on public property in 2022. This action would be an environmentally-responsible action, reduce the current negative anti-democratic vandalism and theft, and would level the playing field for candidates in future elections who may not be able to incur the cost of election signs. I would love to see all 16 candidates out together on Tuesday.”
Michael Martin	“For some time, I have been concerned that signs on public property was the wrong way to go. I’m pleased

	to join fellow Candidates in a total ban on election signs on public property”
Paul Mitchell	“I am in complete agreement. It is long overdue that we take action in The Blue Mountains to create a Brighter Future for all residents.”
Terrence Pettit	“I hope this is one of many commitments that shows council is serious about moving forward with renewed focus and energy on sustainability, natural preservation and community wellness.”
June Porter	“While signs can serve to promote name recognition, what is REALLY important is the person behind the name. I am committed to utilizing my experience and skills as a member of a TEAM to achieve the brighter future each and every resident of the Town of The Blue Mountains wants and deserves. Together my signs stand with others to represent commitment to promote a brighter future for the Town long after the signs are gone.”
Rob Sampson	“From my experience, the jury is out on the effectiveness of signs. Frankly, I’m not sure they do much to drive votes or candidate recognition. I have always felt that signs were good for candidate and campaign volunteer morale only! Signs are a huge investment of time and money that could be much better spent on more direct voter contact such as flyers and door to door campaigning.”
John White	“The sign controversy is another manifestation of the disjointed leadership and petty squabbling, which has been the trademark of this Council the last four years. Highlighting again the Library, Leachate Management and Critical Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal debacles. I am pleased to join with my fellow candidates to show what real cooperative leadership looks like, being receptive to new ideas and approaches. I again pledge my commitment to cooperative engagement once elected.”

Q Who are *The Candidates for a Brighter Future* taking part in this initiative?

A. The Candidates taking part in this initiative are:

CANDIDATE	CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION
<p>Alar Soever Candidate for Mayor</p>	<p>203 Sunset Blvd Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0</p> <p>Phone: (519) 375-6207</p> <p>Email: alar@alarsoever.ca</p> <p>Website: https://alarsoever.ca/</p> <p>Twitter: @AlarSoever</p>
<p>Michael Martin Candidate for Deputy Mayor</p>	<p>Lorne St. Thornbury, N0H 2P0</p> <p>Phone: (519) 599-5048</p> <p>Email: Michael@mmartinfordeputy.ca</p> <p>Website: www.mmartinfordeputy.ca</p>
<p>Paul Mitchell Candidate for Deputy Mayor</p>	<p>137 Orchard Drive PO Box 697 Thornbury, ON 519-599-7793</p> <p>Email: mitch@bmts.com</p> <p>Website: paulmitchellfordeputy.com</p>
<p>Peter Bordignon Candidate for Council</p>	<p>PO #1078, Blue Mountains, ON N0H 2P0</p> <p>Website: www.peteroncouncil.com</p> <p>Email: info@peteroncouncil.com</p> <p>twitter: @peteroncouncil</p> <p>Phone: (705) 994-3833</p>

<p>Paula Hope Candidate for Council</p>	<p>132-East Ridge Drive – Unit #3 RR #1 Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0 519-599-6083</p> <p>Email: info@paulaoncouncil.ca</p> <p>Website: www.paulaoncouncil.ca</p>
<p>Andrea Matrosovs Candidate for Council</p>	<p>Egypt, Blue Mountains</p> <p>Phone: (226) 258-9444</p> <p>Email: andreaforblue@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: andreaforblue.ca</p>
<p>Terrence Pettit Candidate for Council</p>	<p>47 Duncan Street West home/mobile: 705-888-6735</p> <p>Email: tbarber.thornbury@icloud.com</p>
<p>June Porter Candidate for Council</p>	<p>85 Lakeshore Drive Thornbury, N0H 2P0</p> <p>Phone: 416-671-4474</p> <p>Email: juneporterforcouncilortbm@gmail.com</p>
<p>Rob Sampson Candidate for Council</p>	<p>126 Snow Apple Cres Blue Mountains, ON L9Y 0Y1</p> <p>Phone: (705) 445-6529</p> <p>Email: rob@robsampson.ca</p> <p>Twitter: @RobSampson4TBM</p>
<p>John White Candidate for Council</p>	<p>284 Sunset Blvd Town of The Blue Mountains</p> <p>Phone: (289) 230 5345</p> <p>Email: John@John4Blue.ca</p> <p>Website: John4Blue.ca</p>

Q What is the plan for all of the signs after the election?

A. The Candidates for a Brighter Future will take all of the signs down after the election and either recycle them or keep them for possible future elections.

Q Will signs on private locations still be allowed?

A. Yes. The Candidates for a Brighter Future encourage private residents to continue to show their support for their candidate of choice by placing signs on their private property if they so wish.

Q What about the other candidates in the Municipal election?

A. The Candidates for a Brighter Future invite all of the other candidates to join in on the event and remove the signs they have on public property and reinstall them in the Field for a Brighter Future location.

Q What was the problem with the signs anyhow?

A. Over the past few weeks, a number of candidates and municipal staff have been preoccupied by issues surrounding signs. Bylaw staff and candidates have dealt with false complaints of signs not having the requisite municipal sticker, vandalism, theft of signs. This has taken municipal staff away from other duties and distracted candidates from the campaign. Also, a number of residents have expressed concern over the abundance of signs in some public locations. The sign clutter distracts from the beauty of this area – especially at this time of year.

Q How many signs will be placed on the Field for a Brighter Future?

A. We expect over 400 signs will be placed on that property.