

Joe Halos

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Governance and Leadership

In my opinion Municipal government is the very best form of governance. Representatives are close to their constituents daily. They see them on the street, at the store, and in the parks. There is ample opportunity to engage with the public. There are no political parties running Municipal affairs, so there is no need to follow the party line. Council is free to vote independently according to their conscience. Most importantly, Municipalities must balance their yearly operating budget, including debt service, and can not run a budget deficit. Any shortfalls must be paid from reserves, and can not just be added to future debt as our upper tiers of government are so anxious to do. This leads to responsible budgeting, operations, and transparency for the betterment of the community.

The role of council is described succinctly in the Municipal Act. To paraphrase: Councils are to represent the public while looking out for the well being and best interests of the Municipality, set and evaluate policy, determine what services are provided, ensure the administration is in place to deliver these services, ensure the financial integrity of the Municipality and do whatever other things required under any Act. Additionally, the Mayor must act as the CEO of the Municipal Corporation, chair meetings, provide leadership to Council, act as the official representative of the Municipality and do whatever other things required under any Act.

I often equate leadership with 'flying the flag' and leading the charge. As your Mayor I will be promoting the TOBM twenty four/seven. Whether lobbying at Queen's Park or participating at the wrestling show at the Fall Fair I promise to represent this Municipality to the very best of my abilities. I will 'fly the flag' wherever I go and ensure that people everywhere know what a great Town we have.

We have an enviable place to live, work, and play. I want to help preserve our fabulous heritage and ensure that future generations can take advantage of our good fortune. Environmental protections, managing the flow of visitors and traffic, and ensuring our roads, pipes, and parks are able to sustain our future growth are paramount to me. If elected I will lead a cooperative, efficient Council which is open for dialogue, fiscally responsible, and in tune with our various issues.

Please take some time to enjoy the sun rise from the top of the mountain. Swim and watch the sunset from Thornbury pier. Hike the Bruce and bike the Georgian Trail, visit our shale beaches, sail on Georgian Bay and paddle the Beaver River. Visit our quaint towns and villages, enjoy farm gate products and local crafts..... and don't forget to vote for Joe. Thanks.