



## Questions for 2022 Municipal Council Candidates



Laurie Carr

Mayor

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?**

Of paramount importance to the Municipality during the next term of council is the completion of the official plan. This is my top priority and is required by law. The OP, as it is commonly referred to, is the blueprint for our municipality for the next decade. I will lead an official planning process that involves this community every step of the way!!

### **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 believe the elimination of the Economic Development and Tourism department in 2014 has left the business sector in a very compromised position. There is no singular focus on "getting tourists" to the Municipality. There is no co-ordination of efforts to entice new business to Port Hope. We need this to be a primary focus and not a tertiary function

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

Economic Development is the process of utilizing specific tools, policies and programs to improve the economic well being and quality of life of our community. Robust economic development strategies will add jobs, draw new business to the community, lower taxes and add residents to our bustling municipality.

**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?**

This is an undertaking that needs to be done in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. All new businesses coming to town should receive a one year membership to the Chamber. The Chamber will then demonstrate how much they can assist the new business so they will continue their membership with The Chamber in year 2.

**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 ?**

I am advocating for a Municipal Services Corporation specifically targeted towards economic development. That will help immediately upon creation and have long term gain as well.

**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?**

I believe we should be marketing the municipality as an agricultural community with a robust downtown and a thriving business sector. This will put the focus on the predominant business in our community.... Agriculture.

