

**BSRA Questions to Bluewater Candidates 2018 Municipal Election**

	<b>Mayoral Candidates</b>		<b>Deputy Mayor Candidates</b>		<b>Councillor Stanley Wes Candidates</b>		<b>Councillor Hay West Candidates</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Paul Klopp</b>	<b>Tyler Hessel</b>	<b>Bill Dowson</b>	<b>Jim Ferguson</b>	<b>George Irvin</b>	<b>Taylor Van Aaken</b>	<b>John Gillespie</b>	<b>Alwyn Vanden Berg</b>
<p><b>1. Each year Huron County sets the tax ratio for the Municipality of Bluewater. The residential ratio is always 1.0 and the current general ratio for farmland (not including residences or business located on farm property) is .25. Do you agree with these ratios or would you like to see changes made?</b></p>	<p>I would like to see changes made. The current ratios are based on the assessments. Assessments are based on the values of both farm and residential properties. Values have skyrocketed above what anyone would have imagined therefore assessments have raised. I agree, ratios should be decreased on both farm and residential properties to slow down the rate of increases on our taxes. Slowing the rate of increases makes sense for our ratepayers.</p>	<p>I stand by the current tax ratio. It is fair and is based on value of land. A change would only deflect the taxation to others, which would not be fair. It is up to your leaders to provide fair service for all.</p>	<p>I agree with the Ratios. The reason is that Farmland is the farmers job ,it is his income ,no one else pays municipal taxes on their jobs, Regardless what their profession. It's a good system and it works well its Fair to everyone . We pay municipal Taxes on our home and lot the same as villages and Lake shore and any where else.</p>	<p>Tax rates - prior to amalgamation, farmers paid 100% of their taxes to the municipality and then the province paid a farm tax rebate of 75% directly to the farmer. This meant that all of the residents and businesses of Ontario supported all the farmers. Post amalgamation, the farmers pay 25% of their farms taxes to the municipality. The result is twofold: one that the municipality/County lost 75% of their farm-related tax revenues (grants to address the shortfall have been reduced and are being phased out). The second is that now instead of everyone in the province supporting farmers, the local community/tax base makes up the difference. In Bluewater's case because the tax base is almost entirely residential this resulted in an shift of tax burden to residential properties. Every year during budget deliberations at County Council the tax revenue from all the tax classes is identified and variances discussed. The decision has been made to monitor any changes going forward. I am not in favour of reducing the tax ratio for farmland at the</p>	<p>There have been proposals made at County to lower the farmland ratio. So far, this has not met with support. I am not in favour of making adjustments other than lowering OUR ratio.</p>	<p>I agree with the current tax ratios. Farmland is currently set at the provincial maximum of 0.25, while residential is at the norm of 1. It is important we take the approach to budgeting that asks the question "What do we need to spend?" vs. the common approach of "How much do we have to spend?" and then reduce the pace of tax increase for both residential and farmland accordingly.</p>	<p>I have not yet heard or seen any discussion that would suggest a compelling reason for a change at this time. I'm prepared to listen if a position for change is made. The County sets the tax ratio. Bluewater has no direct input on the decision except through its County representatives (Bluewater's Mayor and Deputy Mayor). If an adjustment were contemplated, it would be best on a province-wide basis to keep the tax costs to the agricultural industry even throughout the province. Bluewater sets the tax rate. If a rural tax adjustment is desired, adjusting the tax rate may achieve the desired result.</p>	<p>I agree with these ratios. The .25 for farmland cannot be exceeded as it is set by the Province. The .25 could be reduced by Huron County but I wouldn't want that to occur.</p>

				expense of the other classes as has been suggested. This would result in taxes being arbitrarily reduced for some Bluewater properties and other Bluewater properties being arbitrarily increased. I dont see this as equitable.				
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<b>2. Are there current services in the Municipality of Bluewater you would eliminate or change? Do you have any ideas that would help to keep the current services?</b>	At this point, I would not be in the position to say that anything should be eliminated or changed. If elected I will be instituting the work which needs to be done to asses and cost out all of our current services. Two examples would be how snow plowing is provided, especially along the lake now that we are assuming more roads ~ outsourcing vs. being provided by the Municipality. A second example would be the operation of the Bayfield Community Centre. The proposal for a public/private operation of the Centre would be a change in the way that service is provided and it deserves a fair and open discussion.	I believe we should always be looking at ways to optimize service and look for efficiencies. Our core services like roads, bridges, water, storm water and sewer are mandated under the municipal act. Recreation and grants and all facilities should be reviewed regularly to be sure we are getting the best value out of these services.	I am always willing to listen to the ratepayers with any ideas they have or would like to see , eliminate or change. They can come to me to bring anything forward to council.	Any service changes affecting Bluewater residents should not be done at budget time but rather through an inclusive and open process throughout the year and then implement in the budget. The proposed changes would be presented to the residents for their input and suggestion and then Council consideration before a decision is made. I see the opportunity to investigate efficiencies in operations and cost savings between Huron County and Bluewater.	I would accept the 3 Facility Review reports that all recommend to remove the service of ice in the Bayfield arena. I would add the service of the large item pick-up for the 2 lakeshore wards. I would continue to remind council of the fact that 50% of the cost of services provided are paid for by the lakeshore.	I would not eliminate any current services. My goal is to find efficiencies in the services we already provide. It is important we take a business approach to managing our current services. Proper fleet management, public sector wages, and purchasing decisions need to be made with the approach a private business would take: cost analysis, pay back periods, and return on investment, to name a few.	In my view, the issue is not levels of service delivery but rather who pays for services received. Bluewater's Strategic Plan introduced the concept of a District Approach to service delivery. The consultant's report, which resulted in the development charges bylaw, demonstrated the differences in costs for service delivery between urban and rural areas. The concept of variable service delivery and variable tax rates by community has been discussed at Council. Council is waiting for a staff report on the District Approach. The new Council will review this issue and, if elected, I will be asking Council to investigate further variable tax rates.	I wouldn't want to eliminate services. I think we have to be mindful of duplicating services. We are all waiting on the report in regards to the Bayfield ice surface. If it is underused, user groups might have to go to Zurich or Hensall. If there are more efficient ways to conduct Bluewater business then we should explore those avenues.
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<b>3. Why are you running?</b>	I believe the current governance model is not effective. Bluewater is having Committee of the Whole meetings where issues are discussed and decisions are made, but not finalized. Those decisions have to wait for two weeks to be passed at a regular	I am running to finish what I have started, which is to run Bluewater more like a business under the regulations of the Municipal Act.	I am running again as I have served since 1983 in the municipal govt. I still feel I have something to offer and will sit at the table and ask the questions people want the answers to.	Since the last election considerable improvement have been achieved in the overall daily operations of the Municipality. I believe it is now time to advance the goals of each of our Communities. Its time to commit resources to their	I am running because I continue to believe that the decisions that I make are always for the benefit of our lakeshore tax payers. I have become an effective and dedicated spokesperson for this lakeshore.	To find cost efficiencies in our municipal government. To cut down on wasteful spending. To become more involved with the community I grew up in. To attract the next generation into leadership roles in our community. To ensure Bluewater remains an	I have been involved in shoreline community issues for over forty years, giving me an in-depth perspective of local issues. Additionally, through my work experience in both the administrative and political side of public administration, I have the experience,	I have always been involved in public service with my work experience. I have enjoyed living here and want to serve the Hay West community. I have always taken an interest in politics. I would represent Bluewater Council with an alternate voice than the

	<p>council meeting. A vast majority of decisions go unchanged at the regular council meeting, yet residents are being made to wait for planning decisions, etc. that could have been finalized in one meeting. It's costly, inefficient, unnecessary and frustrating for Residents. Secondly, decisions made four years ago by the previous council have been overturned with detrimental effects to our Municipality largely due to the current Mayor's opinion. For example, I believe our landfill site now has lost 8 years of life because the packer to compact garbage was never purchased. The previous council voted to use that as one of the tools to reduce the volume of waste in our landfill so it's life will be extended.</p>			<p>projects to further the strategic goals of the Municipality. I have knowledge and ideas to commit to that process and I want to contribute to my community</p>		<p>attractive place in which to invest and one that continues to help local business grow.</p>	<p>demonstrated abilities, knowledge, and skills required to continue to make a valuable contribution to the operation of Bluewater as well as representing the unique interests of shoreline residents. I would like to continue my work on Council – and I have been encouraged by many members of the community to do so – so I can follow through on the current and emerging issues that Bluewater is now facing.</p>	<p>status quo with no hidden agendas but to do what is best for Hay West and Bluewater.</p>
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<p><b>4. What are your priorities for the Municipality of Bluewater should you be elected?</b></p>	<p>I want Councillors to feel like they are part of a team. I want to end the rules where Councillors have been forbidden to speak with staff and Councillors have been forbidden to speak with the media after motions have passed. Secondly, I want to Re-Organize the budget process. Staff would be directed to first bring in a zero increase budget then the council would go through the items line by line to see where we need to spend more or reduce spending.</p>	<p>Bluewater is a large municipality geographically, it is time for us to catch up on our core services Roads, Bridges, Water, and Sewer. We move forward on these areas we can start to tackle the services not mandated by the provincial government.</p>	<p>My priorities are what ever the people bring to me and we will work hard towards them without adjusting the tax rate Discuss and decide what to do accordingly and spend the mun. taxes wisely in our municipality And the County of Huron</p>	<p>To finish the Financial plans started in the Municipality. To support Community organizations to achieve shared goals To celebrate Community volunteers and support their mission To move forward on the goals identified in Municipal plans such as the Economic Development plan and invest in our future.</p>	<p>I will continue to be critical of too much spending in wards that contribute so little. I will continue to hold the line on expenditures and do my utmost to keep taxes low. We do not live in the Municipality of Bayfield.</p>	<p>Refer to question #3.</p>	<p>Keeping taxes as low as possible. Continue to encourage efficiency (keeping costs as low as possible) and increasing the effectiveness (outcomes) in all aspects of delivering services to the residents of Bluewater Municipality. To increase the emphases on proactive planning and decision-making. Encourage Bluewater to continue to balance its legislative obligations while giving due regard to County and Provincial policy.</p>	<p>I think the number one priority is the doctor shortage that has occurred over the past few years. The Bluewater Strategic Plan reports about doctor shortages or recruitment but what has Council or Staff done on this matter? When a recent meeting in Zurich turns out a few hundred people on this issue, then this is a big concern. Our health is number one and we need doctors. I would want to help in recruiting doctors with the Bluewater Family Health</p>

								Team. Other priorities would always be respectful with people and listening to their concerns and trying to find solutions or getting back to them with answers.
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<b>5. What Municipality of Bluewater community groups or committees have you been part of in recent years or in other municipalities that you have lived in?</b>	Old Timers Hockey League St. Peter's Lutheran and St. Boniface Churches Zurich Agricultural Society Member of St. Joseph Historical Society Board Member Huron County Federation of Agriculture	I have been a hockey coach for BCH minor hockey, Huron-Perth Lakers Hockey, President of the Bayfield Optimist, Been an actor in plays for Bayfield Town Hall, and volunteered to raise money for the Bayfield Town hall when I was a youth. In the political world I have been involved as Huron County Library Board Chair, Current Chair of the Huron County Health Unit, Member of Huron County Economic Development Board, Member of Tourism task force, Chair Immigration partnership, Committee of the whole Day 1 and 2 (Chair) and Leading the amalgamation process for Huron and Perth Health Unit.	I have lived in Bluewater my whole life. 1st Mayor Elected and have served on any and all committee 's I have been asked to. Today I am Vice Chair of Tuckersmith Telephone and Vice Chair of the Bluewater Heritage as well i am on the Board of Directors for the Bluewater Resthome.	Currently Past Chair of Huron County Library Board, Lake Huron Primary Water Supply, Community Futures Huron, Communities in Bloom, Friends of Bayfield Library, Member Bayfield Historical Society and Pioneer Park	Co-chair of the Zurich - St. Joseph Watershed Committee Director South Huron Chamber of Commerce Chair of our first Blue flag committee that established the Blue Flag Beach and Marina in Bayfield Represented Bluewater on the tri-municipal Sewage Treatment Plant working group Board member - Bluewater Recycling Association Bluewater member for Management Hiring Committee Member - Lakewood Gardens South Association Present Chair - ABCA	No Bluewater community groups Sit on the board for the Huron County Federation of Agriculture During my time at Wilfrid Laurier University earning my bachelor of business administration I served as President of our resident council. An official Wilfrid Laurier Ambassador .Vice President of Corporate relations for The LINK. President of the Wilfrid Laurier Canoe & Kayak Association. Co-president of the Laurier summer softball league. Managing a summer budget of approx. \$200,000 dollars for a league of over 800 members & 36 teams.	St. Joseph Shores Property Owners Association, participating in sub committee groups on various issues. Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association (BSRA), participating in sub committee groups on various issues including: Alternatives to current Sewer Environmental Assessment. The 2015-2016 Shoreline Management Plan (SLMP) Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) 2016 SLMP updating. Committees of Bluewater Council: Shoreline Management Plan Core Services Review Bayfield Ice consultant terms of reference . Lake Huron Primary Water Supply Management Board, currently Vice-chair. Member of St. Joseph Historical Society	I have been a Board and Executive Member for 6 years with Ontario Soccer. I did committee work on strategic planning, risk management and governance. I was a Soccer Club President in Innisfil for 10 years. I also assisted with high school fundraisers when I organized basketball games involving police and student teams. In 2012, I was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to my peers, my community and to Canada.
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<b>6. Do you support the current Vibrancy Fund Allocation, which is now 10% community projects, 60% current projects, and 30% sustainability? If not what changes would you make?</b>	The principle of allocation of funds for community use is laudable. Windtower funds can be put to good use in the community. I understand that the allocation system is up for review now that a year has passed and I would encourage public input for that.	I believe our council has taken the right steps with Vibrancy Fund to make sure the money will last beyond the end of the 20 year agreement.	I support the Vibrancy Fund that Council came up with this . I see no reason that this isn't a proper decision but if I have the opportunity to sit at the table i would ask for a full disclosure on why the Vibrancy Fund is the way it is.	The current Vibrancy Fund allocation formula was approved by Council with a 30% future sustainability component. The idea was to build up a reserve to draw on after the end of the agreement with the wind turbine companies. It was like a gift that keeps on	The 30% sustainability amount should be distributed to each ward based on that ward's contribution to Bluewater's residential tax ratio.	At this time I do not see a need to change the current allocation of the Vibrancy Fund. I do believe it is important that the municipal government continue to administer the fund, ensuring it's most efficient use. Should groups approach the municipality with	I don't think any immediate action is required. The policy has only been in place a short period of time. There has not been any concerns or alternatives raised with Council. As Bluewater gains experience, further evaluation can be made, community feedback obtained, and	I would maybe see if community projects could go up to 15%, so there would be a small change with the percentages. I know a contract has been signed, so in the meantime we stay with the break down as listed above.

				giving. It has been working well so if nothing changes I see no need to change it at this time. There will be addition to the funding in 2019 with the contribution from Nextera.		ideas to change it's distribution, I would be open to hearing these ideas.	adjustments undertaken, as required.	
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<b>7. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority recently released their proposals for the updated draft Shoreline Management Plan. How do you see these proposed changes impacting the Municipality of Bluewater and what ideas do you have to minimise any potential impact?</b>	ABCA has been consulting since 2015. Residents have raised many concerns to me and I understand those concerns. Parts of the proposals will have a negative impact for our Residents, for example halting development or repair on the lakefront properties. We currently have stringent rules which protect our lakefront so we don't necessarily need more rules. I would be a strong voice with the Ministry to reject most of the proposals.	I think the shoreline management plan still need lots of consulting with the all parties involved. I believe people should be able to protect their property using engineering, This should protect their property and not impact the neighbours property.	Ausable Bayfield has been an important part of Bluewater they have made our municipality a better place to live I would need to learn more on their decision for this answer . I spent 11 years on the Ausable and more people should be involved with Ausable Bayfield to understand some of the problems and conditions that come before the board.	How see changes impacting BW - what ideas to minimize potential impact. The SMP regulates the hazard areas so no further degradation to these areas. Shoreline is significant contributor to tax base - can't ignore that - need to maintain the tax base and protect homeowners investment in their biggest asset Shoreline protection needs to be professionally designed so it doesn't fail and leave a debris field that blocks access, creates a swimming safety issue and further degrades the shoreline	I believe that the property owner has the right to protect their property, however, I do believe that this protection should not have a negative impact on neighbouring property owners. I would hope that an appropriate decision on this issue will be made by our ABCA board of directors after we receive the presentation. Of all of the lakeshore municipalities in the ABCA watershed - Bluewater has far and away the most issues as noted by the number of questions from the recent open house.	Understanding that the goal of the Shoreline Management Plan is to mitigate erosion, risk to structures and people along the lakeshore, I see the necessity of updating the plan. With that being said, I am a personal believer in small government. The largest impact I see from the proposed plan, is the restriction of the rights of property owners. I also see these proposed changes legislating a large increase in cost to property owners who wish to construct new erosion measures on their property. There is certainly a need for an updated plan, with lake levels the highest we have seen since the 1980's. With that being said, I will not accept the changes blindly, and I encourage concerned residents to reach out with their concerns and ideas.	To date, the actual proposal has not been posted. I will review the draft when it is available; however, given my understanding of the draft plan, everything that the ABCA Board's motion of direction required has been addressed. Shoreline protection will be allowed, managed retreat, as a policy is not in the draft, and repairs and in some situations additions to property will be allowed. Also, ABCA staff is saying they will be using flexibility and judgement based on individual circumstances. I expect Bluewater's SLMP Committee will be meeting shortly to review the draft and make recommendations to Council.	From that meeting, I think there was a show of optimism from the landowners that they could still protect their property or make general improvements to their homes. Obviously, it would have a positive impact for Bluewater as the Municipality also owns access points to the Lake for other residents or tourists to use and enjoy.
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<b>8. What is your vision for the Municipality of Bluewater?</b>	I envision a Municipality that works under the principals of Efficiency and best use of our resources with minimum waste. We would make the best use of our Resources which can be time, people, money,	My vision is to build on it's strong staff and provide fair service for all of Bluewater. We are a service based business and helping people in our community is what we	My vision for the Municipality is to continue trying to make it progress make a better place for rural, agriculture and shoreline to improve them to try to make the municipality a vibrant	My vision for Bluewater is a well led inclusive Municipality for all ages adequately prepared to meet the needs of tomorrow. A Community to raise a family in or retire to with affordable housing,	Fair taxation and a great quality of life in a clean environment ( and lower lake levels ).	My vision for the Municipality of Bluewater is to have a diverse and prosperous local economy. I hope that people will continue to see Bluewater as a great place to retire, to start small businesses,	Ideally, Bluewater's population will continue to grow offering an alternative to city living with unique and diverse communities that feature affordability, a safe to live, work, raise a family, and enjoy	My vision would be for the Municipality to prosper and grow. We need new residential units and we want current business to grow. New businesses should be welcome to locate here. We also

	tools, buildings, space, etc. Our job is to help foster working relationships so that it is easy for small business, contractors, entrepreneurs and innovators to be part of the solutions for our local economies. I envision healthy environments for business, agriculture, education, nature, heritage and tourism.	do.	place to live and work our halls, facilities, schools , churches all for a better place, to raise the children and families to call there home.	good schools and local medical services. A Community with attractive parks and recreation areas to enjoy.		and to raise their families. I expect Bluewater to be able to provide necessary services at well managed costs. Bluewater is an extremely beautiful municipality with a tremendous amount of diversity; I see this as it's largest strength, and it is my goal to continue to build on this.	retirement.	must be mindful of the changing demographics and the needs that these people will want and require. Our strategic plan's vision is "building one community" so that should be our core thoughts moving forward
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<b>9. What environment initiatives' should the Municipality of Bluewater pursue that are not currently handled by the Federal or Provincial governments?</b>	If a ratepayer has a concern outside of our jurisdiction that is not being handling federally or provincially, I would be the advocate to those levels to rectify the situation. The jurisdiction in charge, federal or provincial, needs to be informed, step up to the plate, and take the appropriate action.	I am please to say that I was able to have the ABCA take over the water testing cost, which in the past was paid by Bluewater independent of the other member at the ABCA board. All member now pay for the water testing to give us a better understanding of our water quality in Lake Huron. I feel the water test could be expanded to give a much better picture our water quality in the lake.	My vision for the Municipality is to continue trying to make it progress make a better place for rural, agriculture and shoreline to improve them to try to make the municipality a vibrant place to live and work our halls, facilities, schools , churches all for a better place, to raise the children and families to call there home.	Use the water reserve to cost share water conservation measures with homeowners - flow flush toilets, low flow shower heads. Continue and expand the rain garden grant to the entire municipality to improve stormwater quality. Require developers to implement low impact development measures on new developments - subdivisions and condominiums in addition to the new site plan control standards. Use the revised local improvement regulation in a new way to benefit residents. Septic system replacement of failed systems is very costly and it may be difficult for seniors or families to come up with cash up front. The local improvement regulation permits municipalities to enter into an agreement with a willing property owner to complete a project on private property. That means owners can replace	We must continue to provide funding for water quality testing and continue to communicate the benefits of Blue Flag. We should also continue with any initiatives to reduce plastic litter on our beaches.	I believe environmental initiatives are the responsibility of the provincial and federal groups already in place. The first priority of the municipal government is the maintenance of our infrastructure and the ability to provide essential services in a cost efficient manner. I encourage private groups to put forward environmental initiatives to build on some of the excellent efforts we already have in our municipality. I would encourage these groups to seek provincial and federal grants along with private donations to support these efforts.	One area would be rural storm water management because the Ministry of Environment has described it as inadequate. Another would be surface and lake water quality as it continues to be an issue. A third would be management of the shoreline, including public access and respecting private property rights	I would look at our own recycling program that we have here in Huron County. Could we expand on it? For instance can we recycle household batteries, textiles or small appliances or electronics? Even, if it is once or twice in the year. Or have drop off depots nearby where residents could go and drop them off. Could we also eliminate or reduce the use of plastic bags from all businesses. This would help reduce plastic bags being found in our lake, rivers or countryside.

				<p>their septic system, have the municipality pay for it and charge it back on their taxes over a number of years. This helps with upfront cost and puts the cost on the future owners/system users. Replacement of failed septic systems is especially important for lakeshore owners and owners who rely on wells for drinking water.</p>				
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<p><b>10. What do you consider to be the most important resource in the Municipality of Bluewater?</b></p>	<p>The most important assets are our people and our environment. From the youth to the seniors, each has something to bring to the table. They all make this community a vibrant place to live. All are intertwined in the circle of life. Day cares take care of babies and toddlers, rest homes take care of seniors, insurance companies, health professionals, trades people, agri-business. We all need each other to form our vibrant municipality! From our fields, rivers and streams, to our great lake, to our woodlots and forests, to our villages and hamlets, healthy environments provide the best support for our communities to thrive. We have to be good stewards of what we have been given so that it will enable us to prosper now and take us into the future.</p>	<p>The most important resource in Bluewater are the people and the Volunteers.</p>	<p>There is not one important resource over the other. Agriculture, Tourism and especially the Shoreline Association all have the hugest roll in the future of the municipality.</p>	<p>Bluewater has many natural resources such as the rural landscape, friendly villages and 26 kilometers of Lake Huron shoreline but the most important resource is our residents. Their contribution to our Community is the fabric of rural Canada and the reason we are lucky enough to live and work in Bluewater.</p>	<p>OUR LAKESHORE</p>	<p>I consider the people to be the most important resource in the Municipality of Bluewater. It is important we continue to attract talent in the form of business owners, health care professionals, and employable motivated individuals. The people are what allows our municipality to thrive, thus we must continue to make it an attractive place in which to invest and live.</p>	<p>Important resources in Bluewater include: Values of the community including democracy, free markets, and individualism. Lake Huron as an attraction to visit or live in Bluewater. Entrepreneurial ability in the labour force. A great place to work, raise a family and retire.</p>	<p>The most important resource is the people. We can do anything if we work together for each other and for the Municipality, a better Hay West and Bluewater together.</p>