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| **Candidates for Position of Councillor for Stanley West 2022** | | | |
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|  | **Questions** | **Responses from George Irvin** | **Responses from Greg Lamport** |
| **1.** | **On Offer**. What unique qualifications and/or qualities do you have for office in terms of past experience, education, employment positions, expertise and talent that make you the best candidate to vote for in this election? | Quaifications - 19 yrs as a lakeshore councillor               Education - University               Employments - Human Resources, contract negotiations, employment counselling | Hello, my name is Greg Lamport. I am married with two adult children and three grandchildren.  My family has had a residence on Lake Huron for the past forty-two years. Thirty-six of those years has been in the ward of Stanley West. My wife and I purchased the place from my parents 13 years ago.  I was a police officer for 30 years and retired, four years ago, as an Inspector with the Waterloo Regional Police Service. I have a significant and broad range of Board experience, for example;  • President of Senior Officers Association  • Board Member for Syrian Refugee Resettlement Steering Committee  • Vice Chair Women’s Crisis Services Waterloo Region  • Vice Chair Emergency Preparedness Ontario  I have extensive experience in legal issues and policy development.  I understand the difficulties of working with a tight municipal budget.  I am a logical and methodical thinker which has aided me in impartial problem solving and developing proactive solutions.  I am a decision maker and although you may not agree with my decision, you will get an answer.  I would describe myself as a representative of the people. I do not support government agencies controlling the people but rather working with and for the people. I have a very keen eye for government overreach and will step up to correct it.  I believe there are some citizens’ concerns that I can help to solve and that is why I am running for councillor. |
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| **2.** | **Road Grants.** Where do you stand on: increasing road grants by 35% to compensate for the increasing costs of snow plowing - by the contractors - all along the shoreline? Other road grant related costs on the increase include grass cutting - and dust control, grading and gravel applications where roads are not paved. | I completely agree that the road grants are insufficient and need to be increased by a minimum of 35% | I believe this question is referring to un-assumed road maintenance. I can’t disagree, or agree, with an increase of 35% as I would need to see how that value has been determined. I am speculating the value is based on the tax revenue received from residents living on un-assumed roads. Nonetheless, I will represent my constituents in all efforts to ensure funding is provided equitably. |
| **3.** | **Conflicts on the Beach**. The spectre of increasing conflicts on the beach due to misunderstandings between Shoreline Residents and non-resident visitors about beach access rights and ownership, parking requirements for non-residents using the beach, refuse cleanup by residents that often is the result of non-residents – including STR’s – using the beach, and noise – including due to fireworks – that disturbs Shoreline Residents after the sun goes down. What conflict avoidance ideas do you have as a potential member of Council to address the problems noted above before such misunderstandings result in a serious incident? | a greater emphasis and more effective education on the part of our bylaw enforcement team and a more pro-active approach from the lakeshore associations to better explain what their residents can and cannot do | While campaigning the neighbourhoods I have found this to be of concern. My answer is twofold; Firstly, prevention is gained through proactively corresponding with neighbours and landlords regarding the concerns. Newsletters and posted signs, that address the concerns, will help to deliver the message regarding prohibited activity and private property trespass.  Secondly, existing by-laws can deal with such problems however law enforcement can, and will, fail when complainants are unwilling to be a witness. Law enforcement supported by a willing witness will create a change. Additionally, the lack of providing witness will  inevitably affect any new by-law, such as a short-term rental by-law. This will need to be closely reviewed.  Should residents have problems with a lack of concern from law enforcement I, as your councillor, would be happy to address the Police Services Board regarding such concerns. |
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| **4.** | **Council Budgeting Process.** Early each year, the MOB - led by Staff - undertakes a very thorough process over several weeks to vet and approve the Municipality’s budget for the year. What is your level of understanding – your familiarity - with the mechanics and technical elements (ie. accounting) of that process? And, in particular – what is your understanding of how the transfers to and from reserves and reserve funds works, and do you agree that Council should use such transfers as a lever both for levy control and as a “rainy day” fund? | This council continues to set aside a greater amount in reserves than is necessary  -  our lakeshore residents pay the brunt of this “ rainy day “ nest egg.  I have always been, from the beginning, a strong voice for our lakeshore wards during our budget deliberations.  I understand the process | I have extensive experience in presenting and vetting a budget however I am not well versed in transfers to and from reserves. To answer this question, I would need to be more educated on the topic. I am a quick learner and anticipate I will become adept at determining what is most beneficial for the municipality and its residents. |
| **5.** | **Tax Distribution by Ward**. Where do you stand on providing transparency to residents of Bluewater regarding how much tax is paid by each Bluewater Ward? We understand that certain members of Council have asked that Staff, who can produce the information, be instructed to provide the Hay and Stanley West Wards with such information – but that Staff was instructed not to compile the information. | This has been an inappropriate situation for far too long.  I request ( demand  ) each year that our residential tax contribution by ward is put up on the screen for all of council and the public to see | After reading the question several times, I’m not sure staff can be told to supply the information. If the information can be legally obtained then this should be a Municipal Freedom of Information Request from the BSRA. There would be a fee applied for the time  it takes staff to compile the information. If it is as simple as a councillor asking for the information then I would have no concerns asking for it. But, I believe an FOI Request would get what you need. |
| **6.** | **Garbage Pickup**. Garbage disposal and related costs are a 5 going to 10-star issue not only in Bluewater but throughout Southwestern Ontario and elsewhere, as well. Where do you stand on assessing a move to green bins and user pay along the Shoreline? Green bins would reduce the volume of garbage going to the landfill by an estimated 10-15%, and user pay would compensate Shoreline Residents who do not live in Bluewater throughout the year for the 3-5 months when they do not leave any garbage out for pickup. | Good Luck with the user pay idea.   That would be a non-starter with BRA.  Any gains you think might be achieved would be offset by a greater downside | I fully support assessing and moving to a green bin program. Although a user pay program may be the way to implement, we may also have to look for a long-term solution that has coverage through existing taxes. Having spoken to many constituents while campaigning, we may find a user pay program unwelcomed from many who believe their taxes should cover the costs. I agree fully that our municipality needs to plan for the  future of our landfill and a green bin program will help. |
| **7.** | **Outlook**. What are the most pressing issues along the Shoreline that you will be focusing on over the next four (4) years, if elected? In essence – why are you running, what are your priorities? | Priorities  -  increases for shoreline road grants - more funds for municipal stair repair/replacement to our lakeshore  -  funds set aside at budget for road paving west of Hwy 21  -  allow our lakeshore residents to protect their shoreline property -  resist increases to our residential taxes | The most pressing issues that I foresee are;  • Bylaw enforcement of conflicts in neighbourhoods. This includes all that is mentioned in Question #3. I believe my crime prevention/law enforcement background will assist in getting to a resolution.  • Relationship with the ABCA. As a shoreline resident who experienced unnecessary delay and perceived inequity in acquiring permits within my neighbourhood, I believe the relationship needs attention. The partnership needs to be handled by a “hands on” councillor who is willing to ask tough questions of both the ABCA and the shoreline residents. My variety of Board experience and legal background will be an asset for the municipality and residents.  • Equity in services is of concern that will be a long-term fix. We have services offered in some neighbourhoods, while roads are un-assumed in others.  • Waste disposal has to be looked at. More people are becoming year-round residents and any landfill plans need to be addressed now, for the future. |
| **8.** | **Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority**. ABCA now appears to be under attack by Shoreline Residents and others throughout Bluewater. Issues include inconsistent rulings regarding permitting for septic systems and development along the bank of the shoreline. What is your view of ABCA and its mandate – and what do you think Council can and should be doing to improve the ABCA/Council relationship as one step towards remedying the complaints arising from the residents it is charged with serving? | I have always tried to educate our ABCA board members to the issues/problems along our lakeshore.  Of the 12 Municipalities of the ABCA only 4 have lakeshore and South Huron not much.  When I have not been the Chair or Vice Chair I have made it a priority to always nominate a lakeshore board member for Chair and Vice Chair as I have just recently done.  The chair that followed myself was from Lambton Shores and the present Chair and Vice Chair are from Central Huron and South Huron, thank you very much. To develop a better relationship with ABCA  -  one solution would be for council to request more meetings with the General Manager and/or the Water & Planning Manager of ABCA | As stated above, this is a pressing issue that requires the municipality to have a representative on the Board that is capable of questioning the ABCA personnel on their caseload, applications, tactics, delays and enforcement of their regulations. Additionally, the municipal representative needs to address and support the ABCA when there are blatant breaches by residents. This is a challenging position that requires the municipal representatives/councillors to help solve. The burden rests more heavily on the shoreline ward councillors. I am confident in my abilities to be impartial during conflict and come up with the best solutions. |
| **9.** | **Political Representation**. Presently, there are two (2) Shoreline Wards and five (5) other Bluewater Wards. The Shoreline Wards’ population and development have grown considerably over the past 4 years as has the total residential taxes that they pay. Setting Bayfield aside – the Shoreline represents a tax cash cow for Bluewater producing more funds for Bluewater’s treasury than the other 4 Wards combined. That fact notwithstanding, the Shoreline’s Councillors are outnumbered two (2) to one (1)! Where do you stand on working to remedy the lack of balance, in terms of political representation on Council, between the two (2) Shoreline Wards and the other four (4) Wards. | Over the years I have had many discussions with a previous mayor, deputy mayor and lakeshore councillors on this very issue.  One solution might be to reduce council from 7 to 5 with the 5 all running “ at large “, however, this would then require a much greater participation from our lakeshore voters to be successful | Regardless of how wards and taxes are divided, the Municipality of Bluewater is grossly overrepresented with political representation. Seven councillors, a Deputy Mayor and a Mayor for a population of 10,000 (arguable). I am originally from a city of 150,000 that has seven councillors and a Mayor. Yes, the city has less representation for a population 15 times larger! Would I support a motion to downsize council? Absolutely, however I am careful not to look at tax revenue as the means to determine representation. The wards need to be divided based on population to ensure people are being represented equally, not based on tax revenue. Now the question becomes; Should tax revenues be spent based on its sources? That is not likely a fair decision either. Why not? Because the rich get the services. However, there is a belief among many shoreline residents that they do not get fairly represented through municipal spending. What I promise is that I will represent the shoreline residents to ensure they get a just voice at council. |