

Inaugural Speech

Today I stand before you, family, friends, colleagues and fellow citizens. It is difficult for me to express the feelings of humility, pride and most importantly excitement that I am experiencing here this morning.

Humbled in knowing that those who came before us have made such significant contributions in building this incredible community we call home today. Humbled and honoured that each of you has placed in me and my fellow Members of Council your trust and confidence to address the many challenges that lay before us.

In knowing the feelings of pride shared by all of us recognizing that our families call home the wonderful place, Collingwood. The pride and responsibility we feel in knowing we are committing ourselves to building a stronger, more vibrant community for the future generation.

The challenges that lie ahead on our path are many....our collective ability to address these challenges are strong....the opportunities that will be realized from our efforts are great.

We will continue to grow a community in which our children and grandchildren can be proud.

John Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your Country can do for you but rather what can you do for your Country". The people of Collingwood have lived this statement for over one hundred years....and it continues here today. We see it in our newest residents that give so much to our community..... Through volunteer hours at the hospital, helping out with our library or becoming active in the many service clubs and churches, these people make a difference.

We see it in the founding families that built our Town out of Wilderness, in the Shipbuilders that carried our name around the world. Most importantly we see it in the eyes of our children and our children's children...a sincere hope and desire

to experience a sense of community, to raise children, to work and to enjoy the fruit of their labour in later years.

I stand before you today and state without reservation, **this hope will be realized.**

It started in this last election when the residents of Collingwood made some clear decisions. Those decisions included embracing our diversity not focusing on our difference, they included supporting our industry and commerce not challenging and fighting them in the Courts, they chose their neighbors to lead our community not law firms and consultants from far afield. In short, they chose to build a community in which we all are committed to building a brighter future.

It is important for all of us to understand that our dream will not come easily. Our Community has an enormous debt, we have huge infrastructure needs, our children and seniors alike would like increased services..... and while all of these wants are important in their own right they can only be support through sound financial planning.

Well folks that starts today. Effective immediately, I will ask our Council to support a full department and expenditure review...We will return to a budgetary system where each and every Councillor participates in the budget process Chaired by our Deputy Mayor Rick Lloyd. The days of closed budget meeting are gone. Our budget process will once again return to a public format. It's your money...you have a right to know how we spend it.

I will ask staff effectively immediately to prepare an option paper for Council on alternate or in house legal services. The days of \$750,000 per year legal bills end now.

Your Council, our Team, ran on a platform of engaging the public not fighting it. It is for this reason I will ask Council to immediately revoke the bylaw pertaining to outdoor patios in the Downtown Core. Clearly the men and women that own, operate and work in our many wonderful restaurants have a much better understanding of where their customers would prefer to sit than elected officials. Too much time and too many words have been spent on this issue.

It is on this same Platform I will ask your Council to review our current approach in working with Industry in our Community. A sustainable economy must have good paying full time jobs that support families, mortgages, and education...and yes taxes. Our Council must create an environment where Private Business and Industry thrives. My pledge to those in industry and the private sector is that our Team will make that happen.

The needs of our residents are many and using prudent financial approaches we are going to examine alliances and partnerships the likes that have never been contemplated in the past. In short, our Team, your Council is going to have to think outside the box on a whole lot of different issues.

My promise is simple and straight forward. I will give this community every ounce of positive energy I can muster. I will work with my fellow Councilors in an open, positive and engaging manner. I will make decisions in the same way you would...because at the end of the day we all aspire to the same thing...a stronger more vibrant and united community. That is my promise to you and that starts today!

Thank you!