

Gary Oosterhof Countryside #1

- What is the next step for moving forward on the intensification of the Williamsville Main Street plan and what will you do to demonstrate growing Kingston as a livable, sustainable city during your 4 years on Council?

The Williamsville Main Street plan is a prime example of obtaining balance in our urban intensification. The City conducted archaeological, environmental and foundation reviews prior to beginning this project. With these reports we were able to make great decisions to defer six of the original infrastructure projects to accommodate new development in the Williamsville area. This ensured the major upgrades to the underground infrastructure were in place before we proceeded with projects that would not have been half as successful. I will continue to work on behalf of all City residents to make sure we are approaching municipal projects in a sensible way, and that we maintain the balance of urban intensification with our proud heritage.

- 2018 rental housing vacancy rate is 0.7%, the lowest in Canada. What steps will you take to increase the supply of housing?

We are fortunate to live in a City that is a great place to live and retire. We are a sought after destination for many who are considering their options of where to live and raise families (military personnel, College/University students, federal government employees, professors, etc.). The transient nature of these populations increases the demand for rental units and we understand that intuitively. This sustained demand pushes prices up and increases the costs for everyone. We need to make the process of development simpler, and encourage smart partnerships. I will work to see interested developers connected to the right resources that can guide them through the intricacies of balancing our urban intensification and our proud Kingston heritage.

- What is the next step for moving forward on the Kingston airport expansion and what will you do to expand air service during your 4 years on Council? For example, Which is a higher priority, another Canadian airline to compete with Air Canada or an American airline to access new US markets?

The expanded airport should be used as an economic catalyst for our area. Currently only 70,000 people are flying out of Kingston each year, and we have an outreach area of over 700,000 people. Finding additional regional carriers should be a priority of this next council, and there is no reason not to look at multiple airlines. I know Mayor Patterson is eager to engage in negotiations.

- What is the next step for moving forward on the intensification of JCB corridor expansion and new bridge and its linkage to the Third Crossing....and what will you do to encourage that growth during your 4 years on Council?

I was very honoured to be a part of council when this historic project launched. During this past year I joined the Kingston Economic Development Board of Directors as I have a keen interest in seeing sensible development along the JCB corridor, and all parts of our community. I will continue to work with stakeholders to drive sustainable growth, and push my fellow civic leaders to move forward with our strategic plans.

- What is your solution to the lack of parking inventory in downtown Kingston? What is your financial plan for creating new parking spaces to add to the City's inventory to promote local retail?

The City of Kingston needs more parking downtown. That is no secret. With plans to increase our urban density this is something that needs to be addressed quickly. I am a big proponent of building additional parking solutions downtown. I am also impressed with how successful the Park and Ride program has been. We need to encourage additional big ideas and congratulate our City Transit teams for finding community partners and implementing this wonderful program.