

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NEWSLETTER

CANDIDATES QUESTIONS:

- 1) What do you identify as the most important action you will take in supporting Chatham-Kent to stimulate job creation?
- 2) How do you view the balance of commercial and industrial tax rates versus residential tax rates—and why?
- 3) What should be done in order to retain and attract educated youth and young professionals?
- 4) Please provide why you are the Candidate ‘of choice’ for your voting Ward or Mayor ‘of choice’ to represent Chatham-Kent.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It won't be long and we will be working with Council of the new term. We will be seeing some changes in representation, having 3 current Councillors taking on new paths. As the voting electorate, this is your time to utilize your influence and create opportunity.

We have enclosed responses from Candidates of all Wards and Mayoral nominees in Chatham-Kent. All candidates were contacted and followed up on for inclusion in this Municipal Elections e-newsletter. They were informed responses would be unedited for print. For those candidates that have participated, we have also attached their web address for your perusal to follow up and research their positions. Thank you to all the Candidates who have provided their opinion and insight.

Please utilize the information to make wise choices in your voting decisions. Where do you want to see Chatham-Kent in the future – and who will assist in getting you there?

As vested businesses and citizens of Chatham-Kent, we encourage you to share this information with your contacts – business, friends and families. The more informed our voting population is, the greater opportunity for voter turnout and the proactive, forward thinking Council of choice.

There is no shortage of candidate forums, with many an opportunity to attend. The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Candidates Forum for Ward 6 Council on Wednesday, October 13th and a Mayoral Forum on Thursday, October 14th. These are in partnership with TVCogeco and will be broadcast live from Municipal Council Chambers.

Election Day is Monday, October 25th. Advance Poll dates are set for October 9th, 14th, 15th and 16th at various stations across Chatham-Kent. For detailed information on the various forums and voting locations, visit: www.chatham-kent.ca

Be Informed – Be Wise – Make Your Vote Count!

Andrew Evans, Chair, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce



RANDY R. HOPE, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

1) Continue to create a stronger profile for Chatham-Kent with a toolbox of attraction and supports that will make companies seriously consider Chatham-Kent. There should be an emphasis on the Local Training and Advisory Board, the Agri-Business Development Council and green innovative opportunities.

2) The tax balance needs to be corrected. We adjusted the large industrial taxes and now, we need to correct the commercial rate system but most importantly, we need to continue to review expenditures within the Municipality.

3) Support for our local community colleges and universities; increasing value-added jobs and continue to explore the creative economies and strengthen our cultural supports through the coalition's work with newcomers.

4) Over the last four years, I have demonstrated strong leadership; increasing the profile of Chatham-Kent provincially, nationally and worldwide; getting people and communities working together; increasing the opportunities for people to express views to council. I have strong relationships between Federal and Provincial Elected Officials and Ministry staff. I am committed to the community. I am a people person. Hard work is the key to success which I have demonstrated in my role as Mayor. That is why I believe I should continue as Mayor and look for your support.

www.randyhope.ca



MARY KWONG LEE, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

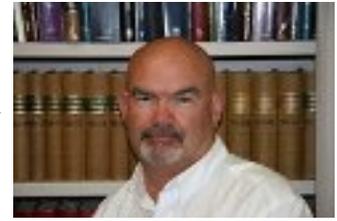
1) Introduce complete governance audit to clarify issues/problems. Issues include improving management efficiencies that afford more resources supporting current business and bring new development research to extend local education and scholarship programs for seniors and current students. Promote former Southwest Regional Centre to establish the first Environmental Research Centre working with senior levels of government for design and funding.

2) In order to retain and attract population, business and commerce municipality needs a level of attraction-entertainment. Is not a matter of balance of industrial tax to residential, but rather, taxes need to be lower or in proportion to the per capita value of our municipality. Overall reduction of living costs, initiated by annual cost savings starting with professional audit and municipal operations review.

3) First establish the extent and balance of a population market that can be reasonably and affordably achieved, with respect to age groups in the work force, retirement groups, blue collar, white collar and medical. Our community must re-design to a direction and content to best match the needs of new population. Youth require new age jobs that best fit their interests and experience. More seasoned workforce requires jobs they are trained for and meet their interest. A municipality has to match the modern day workforce and their social and environmental interest

4) Accepting mayor, and as senior member of council, as is legislated by the Province, the extending power and authority to a Mayor under the Municipal Act, requires that person have a completed portfolio of life's experiences, including political and extended resume of business acumen. No fellow candidate can boast matching my political experience at all levels of government, as well as my professional and administrative resume. Such ingredients uniquely qualifies me for position of Mayor.

TOM MCGREGOR, MAYORAL CANDIDATE



- 1) Chatham-Kent with its rich agricultural resources and manufacturing base has the ability to be a world leader in food production and with the use of new technology, create the products of the future from renewable resources. We have only just begun to tap that growing market and we need to promote Chatham-Kent aggressively, nationally and internationally, as having the ability to meet that demand. As Mayor I would be ready, willing and able to head that promotion.
- 2) It is clear that we need to adjust the commercial and industrial rates as part of our overall plan to attract new investment. Obviously, if Council reduces these rates, the difference must be made up by cutting spending, increasing the assessment base or raising residential tax rates. Raising residential rates would be very unpopular, so focusing on spending cuts and increasing the tax base is the answer.
- 3) To begin, I believe we need an incubator mall to assist young entrepreneurs with their expenses while their business is being developed. We also need to continue to partner with our school boards and post secondary institutions to ensure that the programming is relevant and readily available. More degree programming is very important.
- 4) As a lawyer, businessman and farmer, with extensive experience in politics and volunteer work in the community, I am the candidate with the unique qualifications to head a municipality as diverse as Chatham-Kent. I have the experience, the ability, the desire and the time.

www.tommcgregor.com

IAN MCLARTY, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

No response received





ALLAN TRAYLOR, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

No response recieved



AUSTIN WRIGHT, MAYORAL CANDIDATE

- 1) My Plan for Prosperity will accelerate Economic Development results and bring a new business mindset to the mayor's office. I'll target expanding and emerging sectors, invent tourism initiatives, and prioritize business retention, attraction and diversification. I have responsible proposals to control expenses. Tough new ethics rules will stomp out the mischief at city hall. Like an entrepreneur, my role as mayor will achieve bigger results with less money.
- 2) We could lower business taxes a meaningful amount without upsetting residential rates. The best option is to get expenses under control and expand our tax base. Municipal conditions must be corrected to support a thriving business sector, including farms. I'll keep on top of MPAC tinkering as well.
- 3) I'll form a task force to attract more post-secondary education, including academic programs. Small business will play a leading role providing opportunities, using provincial programs to connect entrepreneurs with venture capital. Having fiber internet first will give us an advantage. I'll promote Chatham-Kent as a vibrant, green, modern municipality on the cutting edge of arts and innovation, not an idyllic town full of old buildings.
- 4) I've done my research and produced a platform of solutions. My ideas will improve representation and put local decision-making back in our communities. I'll tackle unsustainable escalating expenses and tax increases with entrepreneurial spirit and management experience. Elected as mayor, I will strive to do more for less, and make Chatham-Kent add up to more than the sum of its parts!

BRYON E FLUKER, WARD 1 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Acclaimed



BRIAN W. KING, WARD 1 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Acclaimed





BRIAN D CASE, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received



GREG FOSTER, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

1) The most important action, we need to work with and utilize what we have in Chatham-Kent. Look at Agricultural, Colleges, recreation and other industry Tap into them, expand and work off of them, "Micro businesses".

2) Industrial tax rates versus residential tax rates. This is not my forte, I will need to learn more on the ins and outs of the issues pertaining to each. The most important thing to remember is to be creative, fair and enticing for business to start up and at the same time reasonable for home owners for buying and selling of their property.

3) Our future! Our youth! Our attention is most needed here in order for our population to be maintained or to increase. We need to really push for enhancements! Implement venues directed for the youth. Upgrade and enhance parks and recreation, cinemas, schools, communication and transportation from small Chatham-Kent towns to connect between each other. We also need to address the drug problems that are increasing in our community.

4) As a councilor, your choice, I am honest and lead by example, creative and open minded. Being in the Canadian Armed Forces taught me leadership and team work. I worked in the Tool and Die and Mould making Trades as well 14 years in factories in the automotive sector. Doing so I learned about hard work, getting along with many different views and still achieving a finished product. As a union steward I negotiated and helped my fellow workers when called upon. Now I am working in health and wellness. I believe with my past work experience I will help lead Chatham-Kent into a prosperous and positive future!

KAREN HERMAN, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Economic Development needs to be our #1 strategic objective! Jobs and new business will be aggressively pursued however we must not forget our existing businesses. We need to support our existing business with A Business Retention Strategy. A council strategy to support the retention of our existing business will enable business growth, as well as the enhancement of spin off business partnerships. Supporting existing Business expansion will equate to more jobs.
- 2) The Commercial Tax rate is needed to be reduced to compete with comparable communities. We must be however cognisant of the increased burden on others including the Industrial rate as well as our residents, we must work to build and grow our tax base. Growth = A balanced tax rate for all
- 3) It is very important that we support our 2 Chatham-Kent Post Educational facilities. St Clair College in Chatham as well as the Ridgetown College University of Guelph. With supporting our Educational assets, we will retain and promote youth to our community by training them here. Creating a new generation. That will contribute to a diverse economy
- 4) The past 4 years of council were tough for all citizens, as well we had a municipal organization that had many senior roles that were not permantly in place. Without permanent leadership, The rippled down effect into our front line employees had a very negative impact. I believe Chatham-Kent is now, very well positioned for growth. I seek re-election in this next 4 year term as I would be honoured to serve our residents to see that our next chapter moves you into success. Together we will move Chatham-Kent toward becoming stronger as the best place to live, work and play.

<http://karenherman4council.blogspot.com>

BRAD MAYNARD, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) We need to cut wasteful spending and rid ourselves of the old tax and spend policies of the past. this community cannot continue to pay ever more for ever less. we must provide a level playing field and keep politics out of favoring one industry over another. i would encourage an aggressive web design and implementation program while encouraging our college graduates to make CK their home.
- 2) The balance in fine, its the rates. our industrial tax is the same as london and windsor. we need to be better than competitive to attract companies here. nothing attracts jobs faster than when a company sees it can fatten the bottom line. we need to hold the line on residential taxes. citizens are paying enough.
- 3) Jobs. kids dont go to school to learn how to collect welfare. if we work to aggressively reduce taxation on commercial and industrial property, this will provide an economic incentive to build here.
- 4) I believe that i am a good choice for council. i tend to look at issues very dispassionately which in my opinion is a must when dealing with other peoples money. when emotion becomes a component of decision making, it becomes expensive. i believe in the individual, not the community because individuals make vibrant communities, not the other way around. i believe in free markets, not state incompetency. i believe the time is now for people to stop relying on the govt and start relying on themselves, friends, and family.



ART STIRLING, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Economic Development is under-funded with virtually no budget for marketing Chatham-Kent to investors and tourists, and that needs to change. We must provide more hands-on support to help existing small and medium-sized businesses, where most job creation occurs, grow. We must continue to promote diversification of our local economy. We must encourage responsible commercial development to keep consumers from leaving Chatham-Kent to shop, to eat or to seek entertainment.
- 2) We have taken steps to ease the tax burden on industrial classes but to do similar to commercial rates will require us to shift more of the burden on residential, a move politically challenging to any Council. What we must do in equal measure is grow our assessment base so that the burden is spread further and thinner, and hold the line on any future tax increases to inflation rate or less.
- 3) We must continue to develop our cultural and recreational assets, notably a twin-pad arena complex. We must advocate for provincial/federal investment in high speed rail, with Chatham an "arrival" destination. We must actively promote ourselves as an affordable and safe place to raise a young family.
- 4) I am the councillor 'of choice' for Ward 2 - South Kent because over the past years I have effectively brought my vision, my leadership skills, my business experience, and my passion for the community to bear on solving challenges and building a brighter future for Chatham-Kent. As a father of five and grandfather of two, I want Chatham-Kent to be the kind of place you can live, work and raise a family, and am asking the community for their continued support.



FRANK P. VERCOUTEREN, WARD 2 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) The most important action, in my mind, would be to take in supporting Chatham Kent with jobs creation is to continue what I have been doing that is listening to my electoral ward first and working with my constituents to satisfy what they believe is best, then to work toward that which would be in the best interest of all of Chatham Kent With our population down to 103,000 and our tax base lower. our cost keeps rising forcing our living cost higher and this would make Chatham Kent unattractive to investors and to residents. Losing population means losing jobs and business, that supports jobs. My track record is solid against wasteful and unnecessary spending..
- 2) We have control over Industrial and residential tax hikes. but councillors fail to agree and implement such control. A move to unload more tax on residential from industrial is unwise and actually hurts the cause, starting now to keep taxes to zero percent is easily doable and by doing so , at the end of the next council term Chatham Kent could boast that we have the lowest taxes in Ontario
- 3) First I would identify what the youth and young professionals are looking for so in order to remain and move to Chatham Kent then work to change our community that would best fit a profile these young people are after, Once again creating a overly expensive environment as is currently the case to live and work, will only attract more declining financial and populative enrollment
- 4) No response received

JIM BROWN, WARD 3 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received



STEVE PINSONNEAULT, WARD 3 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received





JACK P. WELLER, WARD 3 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) To create jobs in Chatham-Kent I will be spending much of my time looking to expanding the municipality's interest in bio-products. This is a thriving sector that generates 1.7 Billion in annual revenues and is projected to grow increasingly in the future. Municipalities across Canada are beginning to see this and invest in ventures that are turning waste into revenues. Secondly I would like to see Chatham-Kent attract more IT and E-commerce jobs. We need to develop a center that is more attractive to this industry.
- 2) In regards to tax rates, I feel there needs to be a reevaluation of current commercial rates and must be more competitive. With lower rates we will be able to attract more small business and help the community flourish. Considering the residential tax rate, the residents of Chatham-Kent do not need any future tax levies. I would support a freeze in residential tax rates for the next 4 years. We lack the services that would give reason for such a high rate.
- 3) Lastly, a very important issue to me, CK's talent vacuum. The community continues to lose our extremely talented youth to our larger surrounding centers. We must develop a better continuing strategy that will explore the careers that our youth are vying for and implement actions that will be conducive to retaining talent.
- 4) Growing up in CK, I have watched our potential youth move away for school to find that when they graduate with honors they are unable to find work back home. We need to better facilitate them because many want to come back to be closer to their families, where they grew up.



JOE FAAS, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Agriculture is Chatham-Kent's biggest industry. We have one of the best soils and growing times in the world so we need to promote this so we can attract processing companies to locate here. We also need to partner with our local college in promoting course to meet the needs of our current industries.
- 2) This is always a difficult task. We need to be competitive with our surrounding communities. I feel that our balance is in line with other communities, similar to ours.
- 3) I feel that the 2 local colleges have made some major improvements to their facilities, the new health and fitness centre and the new tech building at St. Clair College, the research and development of green energy at Ridgetown College all help to attract youth to our area, and my goal will be to continue to support these colleges in their future expansions.
- 4) I have 28 yrs of council experience serving 21 yrs on Dresden town council 8 yrs as mayor, 4 yrs on Kent County council and 9 yrs as councillor. Committees that I served on include Dresden fire board, Dresden police service board and Dresden PUC, Kent County social services committee and the transportation committee. I'm in my 9th yr on Chatham-Kent Council and have served on the PUC board. I also serve on the St. Clair Conservation Authority. I feel my experience is a big asset in serving the citizens of Chatham-Kent. I'm also involved with the Dresden family health group which is in the process of developing a new health centre in Dresden which we feel is needed to attract health professionals.

ROBERT J KOMINEK, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) I will work vigorously to lower property taxes. High taxes drive away commercial and Industrial activity, and stifle our local economy.
- 2) Residential, commercial and industrial property taxes are too high. These residential taxes are especially detrimental to low income citizens and seniors on fixed incomes. On one hand, we have the provincial government encouraging seniors to stay in their homes, and on the other hand, we have the municipal government raising their property taxes, making it difficult for them to do so. This situation must be addressed by the new council.
- 3) The only way that we, as a municipality, can attract educated youth, and young professionals, is to provide jobs through creating a desirable environment for industry and commercial activity. This can be accomplished by providing low property tax rates
- 4) Being a student of constitutional jurisdictions for over twenty five years, I am firmly of the opinion, that lowering of property taxes is achievable by the transferring of exclusive provincial responsibilities from municipal taxpayers back to the provincial government.

LEON LECLAIR, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Promote tourism throughout Chatham-Kent. Help existing small business grow and expand which will lead to job hires. Through my Ontario farmers association ties work with the new Agriculture task force in setting up new value added farm enterprises. Work on getting more agriculture processing plants on line...we have the land, the water and the talented work force. Continue to search for large industries to set up here.
- 2) Overtaxing the very businesses that are driving our economy (right now that is) should be put under the microscope and re-evaluated, most people are discouraged (that's a polite way of saying) in the cost of their taxes.
- 3) I will with time (most likely while combining) come up with a promotion where the youth of the community will come up with new business ideas and the winner will win a 5000 dollar prize for example, and with this hopefully a young entrepreneur or local entrepreneur will consider building the winners idea. I also have a plan to incorporate a mentoring program where the youth of the area will gain the valuable experience and financial backing necessary to be successful.
- 4) Agriculture and it's spin offs generate 2.5 billion dollars a year and being a large agriculture producer and on 2 agriculture committees I believe my experience and contacts in the agriculture business world will be valuable in helping to turn Chatham Kent's economy around ,and I am an outside the box kind of guy.



AARON C. NEAVES, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Actions that I will take in supporting/stimulating job creation- I will continue to do what I have been doing. In the last 18 months, I have helped secure multi-million dollar investments in Meritor, Martinrea (Dresden/Ridgetown) Woodbridge Foam (Blenheim, Tilbury) AP Plasman and recently Dajcor (former Daymonds) that we helped rescue from bankruptcy. We have dispelled the myth that private business and labour can not work together and I intend on continuing working with multi-national corporations putting our community back to work.
- 2) Overall I feel that we are paying a high level of taxes. I have heard from farmers, home owners, big and small businesses on the current level of our taxes. I believe that the new council needs to work together to find a way to implement a 0 percent increase for the upcoming year. Too many businesses are finding CK a very expensive place to do business. Partially due to negative population growth. Commercial, industrial and residential taxes are just too high, and absolutely needs immediate attention.
- 3) This is a question that I have asked many times. Both of my daughters graduate their respective schools this year (grade 12 and grade 8) As our youth exit our Municipality, they seem to never come back. So let us look at partnerships with our 2 community colleges and develop specific courses that will give young people opportunities. (Ethanol plant, Union Gas, solar and wind farms) sounds like an opportunity for someone to get into these facilities. I have a background in the trades. Let us look at different opportunities for young trades people to train and work in our community. I feel that we have enough of infrastructure projects to maintain young professionals and the youth. There has to be job opportunities here for these folks to want to come back into our community. So to close, improve and expand education opportunities and continue to be aggressive in economic development.
- 4) No response received



S. KEITH PRETTY, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received

MARY ANNE UDVARI, WARD 4 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received



WILLIAM ARENDS, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received





DIANE DALY, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) The most important action should be in the support of Economic Development. I believe that this group of dynamic people within our community is constantly looking for ways to increase the jobs we currently have within the Municipality but are also able to look outside the box to encourage investment from outside sources.
- 2) Industrial, commercial and multi-residential properties are taxed at approximately 2% while residential properties are assessed at 1%. The industrial, commercial and multi-residential properties are capped properties and are protected from significant swings in taxation under the Municipal Act. I believe that the 10% capped rate should continue. This will enable a more equitable tax system. Without incentives (preferably Provincial and Federal) to our commercial and industrial property tax owners' new growth will be kept to a minimum. We must also keep in mind that the residential tax payers cannot continue to cope with rising taxes on a regular basis.
- 3) Over the years we have encouraged our children to branch out and explore the world through education and experience. We now need to have them bring that knowledge and experience home to share with the community. They need jobs, arts and culture, sports and a safe community in which to live and raise their family. We have arts, culture, sports and now just need to encourage that intellectual work to be stationed here within our community.
- 4) No response received



TRAVIS P. HOOPER, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Declined opportunity to respond

SHELDON W. PARSONS, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) The most important single action I can take to stimulate job creation in Wallaceburg is to support the appointment of a local Economic Development Advisory Committee to continue the tremendous work done by the Wallaceburg Community Task Force. Adequate resources for this and similar local groups across C-K is critical to their success. Job creation across C-K will be mainly in the small business and agriculture sectors. The Municipality can't create the jobs but needs to support initiatives by good planning policy, fair tax policy and providing incentives where these are needed.
- 2) The BMA study shows that residential rates are low to mid range compared to our comparators across the region and across Ontario. Commercial and Industrial rates are in the mid to high range. Some exceptions exist such that there is not a fair taxation burden levied against all property taxpayers in Chatham-Kent. I have called for a Fair Tax Commission to examine this issue and its work over the next year will provide the basis for sounder and fairer tax policies. Commercial taxpayers are particularly impacted by our current tax policies.
- 3) As we move from the manufacturing economy to the creative economy, our cultural, climate, geographic and cultural assets will begin to draw young professionals who thrive in that economy away from the big cities to C-K. We need to continue to support infrastructure projects that support this creative economy. Projects like community wide WIFI is needed. We have invested heavily in bridges, roads, sewers and other similar hard services. We now need to invest in soft services that are attractive to this new class of worker
- 4) I offer 36 plus years of experience to represent the interests of Wallaceburg residents and taxpayers. I have spent the last four fighting hard for local issues. I am a community activist and serve my community's interest beyond the council mandate. I am heavily involved in community groups and I organized the membership drive to take back control of the Sydenham District Hospital Board. I am committed to serving this community in any way that I can and look forward to support on October 25th.

mycommunityfirst.org

JEFF WESLEY, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Declined opportunity to respond





MATT K. WOOD, WARD 5 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Requested size appropriate editing from respondent.



MICHAEL BONDY, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) The most important action in supporting job creation in Chatham-Kent will be to support the lowering of both our commercial/industrial and residential taxes. Our property taxes are too high and I believe this one factor can discourage new job growth. Business will not locate here if taxes are not competitive. Nor will people choose to live in our community if taxes are not reflective of the services and infrastructure offered. In these trying times our municipality must tighten its belt and lower taxes. The competition for new jobs is fierce and if taxes are deemed to high I do not believe we stand much of a chance in recruiting new opportunities.
- 2) This is a really tough question as it seems impossible to separate residential and commercial tax rates. In my opinion both are at the point of discouraging investment. If residential taxes are high families will choose not to live here. If new business cannot attract a skilled workforce that can afford to live here that new opportunity will also look else where. Again, in these competitive times our community has to show that we are open for business and ready to provide the environment for business to succeed.
- 3) In order to retain and recruit a youthful, talented workforce Chatham-Kent must offer reasonable tax levels, recreational opportunities and an infrastructure that promotes healthy young families. Young professionals can almost locate anywhere they wish. We have to promote our strengths such as our new fitness and cultural facilities as well as our natural benefits including our climate and close proximity to the Great Lakes, Pelee Island, Michigan..etc.
- 4) I believe I would be a benefit because I will bring new energy and fresh ideas to the table. I will use my business experience and education to make decisions vital to our community. As the father of four children - a fifth in March! - I will do what I can to make Chatham-Kent a great place to raise my family and a community in which I hope my children will decide to raise their families.

www.michaelbondy.com

MARIE E. CADOTTE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Job creation will require a team effort with entire municipality of Chatham-Kent. Our public perceptions have been molded and formulated to comply with the agendas of political and social authorities. A family day holiday, without any provision for funding was widely criticized by businesses for adding costs through lost productivity while companies see profits and sales squeezed by higher dollars and Canadian goods becoming more expensive in world markets. A healthy competitive private sector holds the key to job creation. Governments need to reduce regulations on business ventures.
- 2) Government policies are out of step with each other. When federal governments cut transfer payments, provincial governments need to reduce spending accordingly. Cuts are made in transfer payments to municipalities while local school boards and municipalities are experiencing runaway costs.. Education costs are identified as over %65 of tax bills . Single source of revenue is the tax payer who is caught in the fallout. Short falls made up through property taxes don't include a component of owners ability to pay. Increasingly unjust tax policies have no political accountability as school trustees have little ability to influence decisions made by a local school board when the province sets the tax rate
- 3) Jobs will encourage them to stay. Things like a new Y ,down town development and Kent county has much to offer. My travels throughout the world give me an appreciation of Kent
Our farmers are big businesses with huge capitol investments and I hope the younger generation continues the trend
- 4) No response received

BRUCE CALDWELL, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) A progressive Chatham-Kent should help to take care of that. Far to often we have a reactionary aire towards much that goes on. If we are not careful Chatham-Kent will continue to decline in population and tax base, we need to be progressive, aggressive and market ourselves as a community open to a multitude of businesses. We also need to make sure that companies in Chatham-Kent get contracts in Chatham-Kent, so that the money we spend stays in the community, and that we do not see it leave the community and benefit another.
- 2) All taxes, residential, commercial, and industrial are far to high, we need to diversify and plan for a zero percent tax increase in future years to be competitive.
- 3) Quite simply, CHANGE. Nothing else is going to have a reaction that is nearly enough, change of council, a change in the thinking of administration. An effective and swiftly delivered future to show that we are serious as a community and are ready to compete to keep our resources.
- 4) No response received



DON R. CLARKE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) I will continue to aggressively support economic development efforts that include innovative methods to lower commercial, industrial location costs. That may include having the municipality offer innovative assistance with start up costs. I successfully entered a motion to lower industrial taxes in this last term and will work towards similar tax reductions.
- 2) According to public information our residential tax rates are below the average of similar sized Municipalities in Ontario. On the other hand, a disproportional load has been shifted over to the commercial and industrial sectors. Having a large land mass with low assessment is one reason this condition exists. Solutions:
 - 1) Continue to attract new investment and create more contributors to the tax base.
 - 2) Reduce costs at the Municipal level.
- 3) The economy is shifting from one driven by manufacturing to one that is fueled by industries that require a highly skilled work force. As a Municipality we need to focus our attention on creating a community that modern business would invest in. They are looking for places that will attract young professionals. Support of cultural and recreational facilities recognizing that these amenities can be economic drivers in their own right.
- 4) Leadership is all about making tough decisions. I have examined the issues from the broader perspective and acted in the best interests of the community as a whole. The results are in! New investment in Chatham's Downtown is impressive. Private sector interest throughout the municipality has also increased. I bring to the table a successful business background as well as 8 years serving many roles within elected office at the local level.



MARJORIE J. CREW, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) There is not just one thing that will encourage job creation. A strategic approach is needed. Times have changed with the economic downturn causing the loss of many well paying jobs. New opportunities that are reflective of today's manufacturing needs should be promoted as an opportunity for CK citizens. Supporting small businesses in both growth and retention is as important as courting the large manufacturing facility. Supporting cultural and recreational growth in our community is another important step. Chatham-Kent is has a rich historic culture that should be marketed to the world to encourage tourism.
- 2) I view it as imbalanced. Shifting it is a challenge. I believe that there is not one answer but there must be a political will to change this, it should be reviewed to examine methods to achieve a balance, who would bear the weight of the shift and is there ability for residential tax payers to pay.
- 3) I believe that we need a community that values our youth – Listen to them- Act on their needs as they express them. We have invested in cultural and recreational amenities and need to continue to investing to keep them current. I also believe that we need to encourage growth in our post secondary education institutions. Communities with strong post secondary institutions attract business around them. Investing in healthy lifestyles. Young people want to live where they can be active and have a safe community to raise families
- 4) I believe that I am the Councilor of choice because I believe in and love this community. I believe that we can move this community forward through solid forward thinking and with a positive vision for our future.

DUNCAN R. DAVIDSON, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) I would like to introduce greater measures to encourage the creation of new enterprises whether they be commercial, industrial or retail. These measures need to be explored and reviewed with administration but any and all means need to be discussed. These areas should include but not be limited to tax incentives, retraining funding, marketing and business management assistance.
- 2) I personally believe that too much emphasis is being placed on which areas are taxed at what rate. If we as a community were to focus on job and business creation as well as making the area more attractive to potential industries than our competing suitors, much more growth could be achieved
- 3) Much of the groundwork needed to attract young professionals is in place as far as expansion at St. Clair College, the Capitol Theatre, the new Y.M.C.A. and convention centre plan. The one thing that remains to finish the puzzle is suitable employment opportunities to suit their skill sets. Aggressive attraction of business and industry as well as doing our homework as to why corporations who are shopping for a location look here and locate elsewhere. Lets do all the follow up necessary to improve Chatham-Kent in the RIGHT ways so that WE are the place they want to locate.
- 4) No response received



AARON DE MEESTER, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Eliminating the erroneous perception that Chatham-Kent is an anti-business community because of labour disputes. Council ought to be strenuously pro-active supporting local procurement while working with their federal and provincial colleagues for Canadian content legislation.
- 2) Municipalities have suffered substantial reductions from provincial and federal transfer revenue; therefore we must use the financial resources we have in a more efficient way while maintaining a sustainable infrastructure balanced with affordable tax rates.
- 3) Listening very carefully to what this age group is saying, is the first step to a strategic plan to attract and retain them. Chatham-Kent also needs a better reputation for post-secondary education.
- 4) I have represented people for 25 years from all walks of life and as a councilor will be more effective.





GARY DENYS, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

1) It all begins and ends with budgets and taxation. Economic development and investment by the private sector is discouraged and thwarted by high levels of tax. Business will invest more and prosper if freed from the shackles of high municipal taxes. That activity will, in turn, lead to more local jobs that pay well and are permanent.

2) My focus is taxation. All municipal taxes in Chatham-Kent are too high---commercial, industrial, and residential. There have been ill-advised and costly projects.

- 3) This follows from job creation because a better local employment picture will encourage young professionals and entrepreneurs to come to and remain in Chatham-Kent.
- 4) The current Council lacks the political will to hold the line on taxes or to reduce them. It should be possible to achieve 0% rate increases or to lower taxes from their current level. I intend to provide the backbone to say "no" whenever necessary-- a quality sadly lacking in some Councillors. I have the education (B.A.--University of Windsor, M.B.A.--Queen's University) and professional background (Chartered Accountant) to serve well. I will be as frugal with the taxpayers' money as I am with my own. To demonstrate my commitment, I will voluntarily reduce my Council salary as follows-- if taxes rise by 2% in 2012 compared with 2011, I will reduce my salary by 2%. I will challenge my fellow Councillors, the Mayor, Administration and staff at City Hall to follow my example.



PENELOPE C. DUCHESNE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

1) I believe that job creation should be the main issue for council and municipal staff. As a councilor I want to work closely with the economic development office to create strategies, incentives and stimulus to create jobs in new sectors. We most focus and strive to promote assets and advantage within Chatham-Kent to attract new investment, young families and retirees from larger and more costly communities I would also suggest that contracts stay within the municipality. Too many tenders are awarded out of town; For example our municipal logo was created by a firm in Nova Scotia. These decisions just don't make sense. I believe that we should support our local entrepreneurs "capitalizing on local expertise and innovation"

- 2) Local business should be threaded with respect ,supports, incentives and fair taxes rates and not "as cash cow". We also most work together to grow the municipal taxes base. The result will be more people and business paying less tax.
- 3) A abundance of job, good education, low housing cost and culture would attract educated youth and young professionals to Chatham-Kent.
- 4) I am an young entrepreneur and landlord and understand the importance of reasonable spending and economic responsibility I am honest, creative, resourceful and have a no-nonsense personality that would represent and listen to my constituents with respect and accountability I am a team player but I would not give my vote if I don't believe it would benefit my constituents

www.cpenelope.com

ANNE GILBERT, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) I will continue work in linking Cultural Planning to Economic Development. The Cultural Masterplan is complete with outcomes still being implemented. It is logical to build on quality of life including developing cultural assets to improve opportunity. Cultural assets include history, cuisine, industrial heritage, landscapes, arts and architecture. Research proves investment follows quality of life with a rich cultural framework.
- 2) The BMA report, which compares Ontario municipalities, reports we are in a favourable tax situation in most categories. Higher than normal is neighbourhood commercial, affecting many small businesses. Council has to have political will to correct this as lowering this taxation percentage will directly affect residential rates. Politics plays a big part in lowering this rate. Businesses don't vote, otherwise it would have been corrected years ago. The neighbourhood commercial rate needs to be lowered.
- 3) A surprising outcome of the Cultural Masterplan and creation of Cultural Action Teams was youth involvement. Young entrepreneurs, professionals, and newcomers want to stay here but desire a rich cultural scene, volunteering to enhance such. Wanting to raise families here, they recognize our quality of life to be superlative than more populated environments. Adding the cultural component fulfills their idea of an excellent place to live, work and play. They're tired of naysaying. It's time to recognize and promote what they know as our true value.
- 4) Councillors need be 'big picture thinkers' showing leadership in policy decisions which affect the whole of CK. As a creative visionary with positive leadership style I have demonstrated, in my two terms on Council, that I embrace the comprehensive view of amalgamation. Chatham needs the outlying area for successful growth and policies need to be workable for all. 'Big picture thinking' is essential and is my strength.

KIM ILES, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Extreme Municipal dollars are lost revenue to projects and jobs that were sourced out beyond our community. This I find irrational beyond comprehension. I feel we need more emphasis & support on Small to Med. Business and creating opportunities for them to flourish. Capitalize on #401!
- 2) We have always looked to taxes, and perhaps other methods of income raising may be more beneficial. The Municipality needs new ways to create better cash flow...as any business must do. Cutting municipal spending and other cost savings. Taxes are strangling and thereby stifling our growth. We need to realize this, and stand up for that. The voters need to make this statement, not just the new Council.
- 3) Create programs at the Colleges & schools, to expand their vision and scope of possibilities utilizing resources they can reach at their finger tips while still living here in C-K. This will enrich their future and how they can impact their Community without leaving C-K to do it. More emphasis on Trades and Trade schools. Youth Centers could be considered. where enrichment & personal development programs could be started.
- 4) Being in a public Wellness role in my community for over 19 years & remaining in public service allows me to see the need firsthand. I have created a lot of connections, and relationships in C-K, which allow me to stay linked in to what my Ward is thinking and wanting of their community. We need to think for all of C-K, as well as how we all impact our world with every decision we make here. I feel I will contribute to a broader, more creative and a common sense approach to what has always been. To create the future we desire through conscious thought, knowing that we will attract what we put our attention on. We need to attract prosperity & abundance through deciding we want that, not focusing on what we don't want!



BEN LABADIE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received



JACK M. LONG, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

1) It is time to start promoting Chatham-Kent. 1. Jobs—attracting new employers-its time to start promoting Chatham-Kent properly, and let the world know that we are open for business, and get people back to work. 2. Keeping Chatham-Kent Green for a healthy community. 3. Sports facilities for the local organizations and to make it easier for people to keep in shape or get in shape and more affordable for everyone, which will help Chatham-Kent economically. 4. We need a council strong enough to stand up to business owners who give them ultimatums, I believe all businesses should be treated the same, and show them that the council is elected to

run Chatham-Kent for the best of all citizens.

- 2) I believe shopping centres, large office buildings and multi unit residential should pay higher taxes than the individual home owner and small business owner.
- 3) We need to have the professional, commercial or industrial jobs here for them, plus a healthy community, recreation facilities, and affordable housing here for them.
- 4) I believe my industrial development and recreation experience on municipal government committee and my ability to look at our situation realistically are important

CHRIS LOZON, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) The most important action I will take in supporting Chatham-Kent to stimulate job creation is to work with Council and Administration in order to clearly redefine the identity of our community as a 'centre of excellence' for active retirees and career renewal. Earlier this year Council received a presentation projecting a significant shift in CK's industrial employment profile – from **31.5%** of total employment in 2009 to just **7%** by 2031. We must be proactive in planning how this transition will unfold by marketing our lifestyle amenities to retiring baby boomers.
- 2) I tend to believe that municipal tax rates are as much a result of economic development as they are a contributing factor. In this regard, a balanced economy provides for balanced tax rates. However as our industrial tax base continues to erode, we will ultimately experience upward pressure on residential tax rates unless we can adequately stimulate small business growth in the commercial sector while adding to our residential population.
- 3) The simple truth is that educated youth and young professionals require rewarding and sustainable career opportunities. To the extent that I believe our path to sustainable economic growth lies in our ability to attract active retirees and 'mature' entrepreneurs to CK, we must essentially get older in order to get younger.
- 4) Having lived and worked in Chatham-Kent my entire life and having been exposed to both rural and urban dynamics across our community, I believe I offer an ideal blend of education, expertise and experience to contribute towards the future growth and success of Chatham-Kent.

www.ckhereandnow.com

DARCY D. MEVILLE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

No response received





BOB MYERS, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Chatham-Kent has great climate, excellent soil, industrial park space, skilled labour, and proximity to major transportation routes. Council's role in job creation is to enhance what already exists through scrutiny of tax rates, appropriate by-laws, proper zoning, and providing adequate cultural and recreational facilities. Council must be aggressive in promoting our community as investment friendly. I would also propose an annual symposium where by world business/industry leaders and CEO's are invited to experience all that Chatham-Kent has to offer.
- 2) The tax ratio between commercial and industrial rates versus residential rates is still too high. A lower rate would certainly be more attractive for new investment. However, with a smaller tax base, the burden of shifting the tax to residential property is not conceivable at this time. Our unemployment is too high and too many residents are struggling to make ends meet.
- 3) We must do a better job in creating partnerships with our Boards of Education and post-secondary institutions to develop apprenticeship programs for skilled trades, and co-op programs in the field of green energy. Provide our youth with prospects of a job and a vibrant community in which to live and raise a family, and they will stay.
- 4) I am committed to serving the citizens of Ward 6. I have demonstrated this in my past political service and community involvement. As a school administrator, I gained the leadership qualities necessary to promote a cohesive and functional Council that will listen to and work for its citizens. Being retired, I now have the time



STEVE PICKARD, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- 1) Both industry and families choose communities based on a number of factors. Jobs are created in communities where people want to live. We must focus on having a competitive tax rate as well as an attractive lifestyle.
- 2) Commercial and industrial rates must be brought into a competitive level within Southwestern Ontario. But we need to transition slowly so that we have as little impact on residential taxes as possible.
- 3) We need to continue to support our colleges to ensure our youth are being educated and graduating locally. Greater supply of educated youth will attract the job opportunities that our youth need to remain here.
- 4) We must invest in our own community before others will. We must enjoy our own community before others will appreciate it. I will continue to support sound financial management while finding ways to improve the lifestyle of all citizens of Chatham-Kent. And this is the best way to encourage job creation.

NORM RITCHIE, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Creating good paying jobs in our community is a crucial element to our quality of life. Without them we cannot move ahead. Every effort should be made within the limited powers of our municipality to constantly be aggressive in pursuing economic opportunities for our citizens. If elected as your representative on council, the most important thing that I can do is promote our community and present ideas that will result in continuing economic growth and prosperity for all of our people.
- 2) In my opinion it is not about the balance of different tax rates in Chatham Kent. It should be about asking questions about why the tax rates seem to be perceived as being high. .When the economy is doing well, incomes increase and paying taxes are less of a burden. However, when our local economy is suffering and there is less to go around and our resources are strained. Unfortunately the tax system does not move with the highs and lows of our economy. Economic development is essential to get things back in balance.
- 3) We cannot retain or attract anyone unless we provide them with what they need for a good “Quality of Life” in our community. This includes providing employment opportunities, good health, fitness facilities, local post-secondary education, cultural, leisure and recreational venues.
- 4) If you choose me to be your Councilor for Ward 6 you will get a well educated, hard working individual with experience working with people from all walks of life. Someone who will listen to your concerns and be available if you need help.

DEREK ROBERTSON, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Chatham-Kent needs a competitive position. Chatham-Kent needs councillors that are prepared to step outside the traditional role of governance acting as ambassadors to attract needed new investment. Our success is heavily dependent upon having active and effective elected officials supporting our Economic Development staff and ensuring that the right pitch is being made to drive new jobs, opportunities and investment.
- 2) Residential taxpayers are right in believing that taxes are too high. This is a result of Council allowing the erosion of municipal soft infrastructure. When the economy was strong they failed to re-invest in our future. To get all tax levels in line we must grow. We must promote our community for the tremendous place that it is and attract new people. More people paying taxes means that we all pay less. We require a comprehensive review and further reduce Commercial and Industrial taxes to ensure that we have our most competitive foot forward.
- 3) Only 13% of our workforce between the ages of 25 – 49 holds a University Degree. We educate our youth but they leave for opportunities elsewhere. New investment will create an environment that young professionals will embrace. Proper recreational and cultural facilities are key. Professionals of all ages are attracted by the vibrancy of a community as well as energetic arts and entertainment. Our downtown is gaining greater inertia providing young professionals with the community they will choose to plant their stake. We must encourage private enterprise to grow and prosper in our downtown continuing to create the community that we want to live, work and play in.
- 4) I am the Councillor of choice as I bring responsible leadership, fiscal experience and a lifetime of community dedication.

DOUG SULMAN, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) Jobs are created when companies or individuals invest in Chatham. I will work to create a business friendly environment, with quick, solution oriented, responses to investors, where taxes and utility services are low. I have a record of cutting red tape and keeping costs low while providing maximum service. Council has invested in infrastructure and lifestyle (YMCA, downtown), education at both St. Clair and Ridgetown, and businesses at the Conference and Exhibition Centre. It is now time to make these investments pay off.
- 2) The industrial/commercial tax rates are too high and discourage many from building and others from improving their existing buildings. The problem is there are too few commercial, industrial taxpayers outside Chatham. The solution is not to shift the burden to residential taxpayers, many of whom are on fixed incomes, and all of whom pay enough now, but to aggressively pursue more industry and commerce through the methods I suggest in questions 1 and 3.
- 3) Council has invested in "lifestyle", in part to attract and retain young people because they are Chatham's future. My vision for Chatham-Kent's success is to combine Ridgetown and St. Clair Colleges into a specialized technical University, (called Thames Technical University) specializing in new agribusiness, energy, robotics, business, medical technology, etc., to keep bright young people here, create employment, that comes with a University and spin-off new businesses whose ideas first are incubated on Campus. Most Universities in the Maritimes have around 2,000 students; we can easily achieve that.
- 4) No response received

DALE E. VAN DUSEN, WARD 6 COUNCIL CANDIDATE



- 1) The most important thing is for council to set an example by performing local purchasing practices "SHOP MEMBERS - SHOP LOCAL FIRST" in our community by hiring local business to do business in Chatham-Kent. If our local government can support the people of Chatham-Kent and believe in them, then why can't businesses around the world believe in us.
- 2) No response received
- 3) In order to retain and attract educated youth and young professionals, we need job growth, outside of the manufacturing industry. We have two great colleges in our area. We need fresh local gov't minds to determine what these young people's needs are. Times are changing and we need to change with them. The days of big paying factory jobs are gone. Let's look into other things. Maybe sit down and ask someone fresh out of university or college better yet high school. What can this community do for you?
- 4) I feel that I'm councilor of choice because I offer change. Change that is needed. If you vote for a change then we all are winners.