



Candidate Questionnaire
2018 Municipal Election

Candidate: Stephen Jarvis

Please use as much space as you require to fully answer the questions.

General

- Please provide a short bio of your Professional, Community and Municipal experience and explain how your particular skills will enhance decision making at Council.

I am a third-generation cottager in Cognashene and part of a large extended family who all not only share the family island, but also the need to maintain the special qualities that make the Georgian Bay such a wonderful place: clear skies, clean water and unaltered landscapes.

I retired after 31 years in Sales and Marketing for a large forest products company. I have extensive volunteer experience including 25 years with Scouts Canada as a leader; President of the Georgian Bay Osprey Society from 2010 to 2016; two Canadian Scout Jamborees, three Canada Games, the 2015 Pan Parapan Am Games, the 2017 North American Indigenous Games, the 2017 Invictus Games; classroom assistant at Eglinton Public School 2009-2018 and Board member of the Cognashene Cottagers Association (CCA) since 2016.

I also ran for Council in Ward 4 in 2014 and this along with my Municipal Affairs portfolio on the CCA Board has given me valuable insight into the workings of our local Council. Through all this I have gained a great appreciation for teamwork and working to a common cause as well as dealing with chaos.

Services, Taxation and Good Governance

- Describe your two highest priorities for our municipality, in the short term and the long term?

My biggest priority is getting Council back on track working together as opposed to the current split situation between those representing seasonal and permanent residents. _



My next priority is getting the planning decisions back to the planning department where they belong. There has been a change in the last few years, now planning requests that push the threshold of acceptance go directly to Council as opposed to the Committee of Adjustment for their hearings. This, in turn, has bogged down Council to the point of having to schedule extra meeting time to deal with the requests. Our Planning Dept needs support in upholding our bylaws.

- Many constituents believe that the services provided to seasonal residents are not commensurate with the taxes paid. What steps would you take to address this concern?

My first efforts will be in trying to bring Council together in understanding this issue. Much of what all residents pay in taxes goes to the District with little pay back. We will need to look at ways to make the situation more equitable. While I recognize that our taxes go to District Council and then filter back to our Municipality, it is not evident that we are in fact getting our share back in the form of services. I expect that the next Council will have a closer look at what we get back and then how we can spend it more efficiently.

Environment

- Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development. How important is it, and is a balance currently being maintained?

I consider economic activity to be of great benefit to any community, but it must be in accordance with appropriate environmental guidelines. It is implicit on us to protect and improve the environment in all areas of the Georgian Bay. We cannot sacrifice the environment for the sake of development, but we can be a leader in sustainable development

- The Township has financially supported Georgian Bay Forever along with several cottage associations in their efforts to control and eventually eradicate invasive Phragmites (Australis). What additional steps do you believe that the Township should be taking to assist with these efforts?

The Township is already pushing Parks Canada to work on removing the Phragmites on their lands. All parties affected by this invasive plant and other invasive species will have to work



together in eradicating them. If financial resources are required then the Township will have consider providing more funding. There will have to be significant cooperation between all levels of government regarding invasives. For example, we will have to communicate with the ministry of Transportation to find out what is being done to eradicate Phragmites along the 400.

- Are you satisfied with the costs and outcomes of the programs undertaken by Georgian Bay Township to help improve/maintain water quality in the Township, including water quality testing and the inspection/maintenance of residential septic systems? If not, what action or changes would you recommend?

There is a water testing program in place, but I will want to see much more done on this front. The testing is very limited in its scope and only a few locations are tested.

While there is now a septic inspection program in place it needs to be given a broader mandate so that surrounding waterways can be tested and protected. Many septic systems in the Municipality are at or close to their best before dates. More work will need to be done on this front as simple site inspections are not getting to the root of the problem. If we can put in place a program of property owner paid inspections, which would be part of their commitment to the community, and then arrange for these to be done every 5 or 10 years, there would be a significant improvement in nutrient effluent making its way into our lakes and bays.

Planning

- With regard to planning regulations and enforcement within Georgian Bay Township, how will you manage a balanced approach to protecting the interests of property owners and protecting the Georgian Bay ecosystem?

The very simple answer is for Council to mandate that the Planning Department adhere to the building code and Bylaws already in place. The problem does not seem to be with the guidelines, but with their implementation. There will always be exceptions, but at this time there are too many and it appears that a good number should not even require discussion. As I noted above, there is a Committee of Adjustment and our Planning Dept is well aware of municipal and cottage community bylaws so decisions regarding planning should be relatively easy to resolve. This does not currently appear to be happening.



- Community plans reflect the specific characteristics of each community. How will you protect their integrity and ensure the continued adherence to existing and future community plans?

Again, it is a matter of adhering to existing Bylaws and giving the Planning Dept the authority to stick to them.

Community Engagement

- There are many stakeholder groups that are active or reside in Georgian Bay Township, including First Nations communities, community (cottage) associations, Georgian Bay focused organizations, and provincial and federal government agencies. In what ways are you satisfied that Georgian Bay Township is doing enough to work together cooperatively and productively with these stakeholders and in what ways do you believe that improvements are needed? If so, what improvements would you recommend?

I am continually impressed with the number of Georgian Bay organizations, over and above the Cottage Associations and First Nations Communities. It shows how much we are invested in the Bay, but can sometimes be a little confusing. I think all parties must be involved when the overall impact on the Bay is considered and I don't think that the current Council includes all the stakeholders in its decision-making process to the extent it should. I would recommend involving all relevant stakeholders in any discussions that could use their areas of expertise and experience.

- How do you envision communicating with constituents, many of whom live out of the municipality for parts of the year, to get their opinions, hear their concerns and inform them of important township initiatives?

I expect to be in regular contact with all the Cottage Associations through their respective Boards. If they know what is happening I believe they will approach me with ideas, critiques and offers of assistance. Of course, I will welcome and respond to any direct correspondence and plan to issue e-updates after Council meetings.

Other

- If you have thoughts on topics not covered in the above questions or would like to just add a closing comment please feel free to do so here.



I think everyone should be aware that, just because I was acclaimed to the position of Ward 2 Councilor, does not mean I will take the position or my constituents, for granted. I will be honoured to represent our cottage community in this capacity. Because I have been acclaimed I have time to give to other candidates and meet with those I do not know.