



Vote For a Sustainable Peterborough

Candidate Name: Lesley Parnell

Running for: Ward 1 - Otonabee

<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Economic Policies.</p>	<p>I look at every single policy or development with a sustainable lens. This is essential going forward. Any development must have green infrastructure, connectivity to trails, necessary commercial, sidewalks/trails for an accessible/walkable community. This is also a safety feature for children walking to school or seniors feeling safe and getting out to walk in their own neighbourhood. Plus transit connections. Any time we can provide essentials without someone having to drive a car for access - the better. I also support mixed density, and affordable housing within any given community. I have proposed this as part of the official plan. Any policy that encourages efficiency in any way promotes the sustainability of that feature in our community. This help our economy short and long term.</p>
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Cultural Policies.</p>	<p>I have served on the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee for 8 years. We have a Municipal Cultural Plan for reference but many great people advancing this portfolio. The Arts/Culture/Heritage aspect for our city is a major pillar of our identity and very important to any investor coming to Peterborough to create jobs. They are looking for a well-rounded "Quality of Life" for themselves and their employees. I have been personally involved with such projects as the Quaker Fire Memorial and the Grove Coronation Tree. Festivals of all kinds add to our recreation culture. I am working on a partnership for a beautiful pottery Mosaic with the Kawartha Pottery Guild that will include First Nations recognition and beautify where ever we can place it. The KPG also did the impressive ceramic Trillium project. I support our community grant program to assist many with their visions of preserving our arts, culture and heritage in long term sustainable ways. Even some service grants to help these artisans have a permanent, collective home. Art is sometimes overlooked for its value. However, there is great merit in public art to enhance our city. Murals downtown for example. I also was able to use a painting to raise over \$46,000 and many services/awareness for our homeless. I have also supported our Heritage Registry and respected any application for designation. On a personal level, when we renovated our own home, we spent 10 days preserving the heritage brick so it is available for heritage homes instead of going to landfill. That was being sustainable 16 years ago. That may not be "culture" but it proves my commitment to sustainability and respecting heritage.</p>



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<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Social Policies.</p>	<p>We do have affordable housing but it will never be enough. We do have drug awareness training but it will never be enough. I believe that the sooner we can give children a sense of self-worth in their lives, the better off they will survive and thrive. The logical place to help these children in our City is in school where everyone will receive the same education in life skills. The earlier the better. Right now we have 4 full time police officers in our schools but the program is starting too late. And we really do not need only police officers doing this education and encouragement of self worth. A young person with self esteem is less likely to do drugs. This is a community issue that falls to the school board, not city. However, we are connected. We need to go back to every single student in public school learning the very basics of a budget, healthy food planing & preparation and basic tool use including laundry. Like the old days of home economics. Breakfast programs are great but it would be so much better if children/parents could have a healthy breakfast at home. Because they know how to shop, prepare and can afford it. Today we must also concern ourselves with on-line dangers. I am very concerned about basic social skills now. Too much time is spent on a devise instead of having face to face human communication. This non-advancement is very detrimental to our youth succeeding in a life where your job depends on your real person life communication skills. Proper opportunity for education and basic life skills for all people is key.</p>
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Environmental Policies.</p>	<p>Again. Any development must be "green", energy efficient and handle, for example, storm water, in a more appropriate way. It must be walkable and transit friendly to encourage walking/cycling/transit versus a car. Every time we build something it must be better for the environment than it was before. ie our new public works yard that will reuse and properly treat all rain/gray water to wash our buses/trucks and then treat in the sanitary system versus just letting is run off into the local creek/park. All trucks/snow plows will also be loaded up inside a dome versus outside in the environment. We are also using LED lights for street lights and any new sports field. Even our new sports field at Holy Cross will collect and properly use the rain water versus it just running into the adjacent park. I favour reforesting many of our 100 parks with trees versus just open space that must be mowed. We do need sports fields but a forested park with trails or opportunity for "hide and seek" in a neighbourhood park is also important for people and the environment. The environment is a key component in any application or report.</p>



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<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that would increase transparency of government, democratic decision making, and citizen engagement.</p>	<p>Some municipalities only have council meetings and limit the number of speakers to 3. Peterborough has a cycle where we all receive the information, have an initial vote and an opportunity to receive public input before a final vote 2 or 3 weeks later that includes allowing even unregistered delegates to speak. You can see our efforts in having more public consultation with our current and on-going Official Plan Review. We had a 4 day planning charrette with many stakeholders and public opportunity. We have a new Official Plan working group and a new citizen lead Planning Advisory Committee. All Councillors are very available to their constituents for input. We are very transparent and inviting of opinion. There are rules and laws around closed session items and these rules are strictly followed by all of us. At the end of the day, after the preliminary agenda, recommendation and meeting, then the opportunity for anyone to contact any Councillor, we have a final council meeting and make a decision. The job is to make a decision on behalf of our citizens. We are very democratic. It is democracy in action whether you win or lose. It is not only democratic when you win and not democratic if you lose. And win or lose, we have listened to our citizens. Just because we may vote the other way, with many other citizens, does not mean we did not listen to you. No referendum has ever been binding because not enough people vote. We elect people to do all this homework, research, engagement and, in the end, make an educated decision in the best interest for the vast majority of the citizens. Anyone is welcome to step forward and put their name on the ballot.</p>
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