



# Vote For a Sustainable Peterborough

Candidate Name: Jane Davidson

Running for: Ward 3 - Town Ward

<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Economic Policies.</p>	<p>Peterborough needs a strategic plan built on economic sustainability, so I'd start right there. Something along the lines of "The Energy Capital of Ontario." A vision centred on this declaration and the existence of initiatives like the CleanTech Commons at Trent University, will draw businesses focussed on both green and clean tech to our city. If you declare it, they will come. We need to insist on economics that foster and model sustainability and directly address runaway climate change and carbon emissions. Every decision made at Council must be passed through a climate change and sustainability lens: if a housing development can't model energy-smart buildings and designs, coupled with no energy-smart way to move people in and out of these developments, then it's back to the drawing board. Growth does not have to outpace intelligence, especially in the face of climate change. We can model ourselves after Aberdeen Scotland, which has a fleet of city buses powered by hydrogen, whose only emissions are water vapour. Business opportunities will flow from this action. Another economic opportunity falling under the Energy Capital of Ontario umbrella: a new kitchen waste site operated as a co-op between city, county, governments and private funders, modelled after Victoria, B.C. where it is illegal to put kitchen waste into the garbage. Kitchen waste recycling diverts massive amounts from landfill, the facility provides employment, and of course, is energy self-sufficient using a combination of solar, biomass and water powered electricity all produced locally. Since the one thing people in Peterborough can all agree on is hockey with lacrosse a close second, let's have a new energy efficient arena in downtown Peterborough, on the Townsend City Works yard. A single pad works with a double pad at Trent University. Re-purpose Memorial Centre for Lakers. This will kick start and revitalize the downtown while modelling the benefits and technology of an energy self-sufficient sports facility for the rest of the province. It will also require the combined mental bandwidth of conservatives and progressives to source funding and produce a true community-based project for the good of all. It might well foster some understanding and trust as an important side-benefit. This project will need a local source of renewable energy - modelled on Burlington, Vermont, which used a combination of solar, wind, water (which we have in abundance) and biomass to become an all-renewable energy city. We can power out downtown with a rooftop solar powered energy co-operative, partnering with the city-owned utility and county</p>
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	<p>and city investors. The co-op would also supply electricity to heat and cool buildings in the downtown core. We will bring fans to the new facility with our public streetcars and ridesharing energy-efficient vehicles. These are just a few examples of how the Energy Capital of Ontario will work. The possibilities are almost endless!</p>
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Cultural Policies.</p>	<p>First off, cherish and celebrate our original history, including our First Nations communities. More festivals, all modelling plastic-free sustainability, along cultural themes. Become the next wave melting pot - diverse cultures have so much to teach one another. Cultural policies and practices celebrating diversity also help to reduce fear of the other, which promotes an ethos of safety, calm, and well-being.</p>
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Social Policies.</p>	<p>Address poverty and food precarity with food co-ops, new gardens on available apartment lands for tenant use, in-city greenhouses, education seminars on food storage to reduce garbage waste. Affordable housing blended with market-priced rentals, house-sharing, and redevelopment modelled on the commons-style of community at the Mount.</p>
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Environmental Policies.</p>	<p>Focus on transit first: purchase hydrogen or solar powered city fleets, including ambulances, public works vehicles, and buses. Return Peterborough to its original glory as a streetcar city, using the newest streetcar technology. We need to overhaul and refund our public transit system to add more buses, more frequent routes, and transit hubs at all four corners of the cities to enable continuous flow and changeovers. Our new community bus is a good start to help seniors and other-abled people so we need to purchase more of these buses to diminish reliance on expensive taxies and expand their routes to service the west end, East City, and the north end. Studies prove that ridership increases when good, reliable transit is provided.</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>Hold city council meetings in each ward on a rotating basis so people living there have access to meetings. Open up committee meetings to public input and public presentations rather than giving people a scant seven minutes to present to a council that is immediately called to vote on an issue. A change in format requires a change in the by-law. This change can come from council itself. Citizens want to be engaged; the present format mitigates against that, so let's change it. I advocate regular ward meetings in accessible church halls and apartment building common rooms so that seniors can have better access to their councillors. Seniors make up nearly 25 per cent of our population, and I suspect many of that cohort live within the boundary of Town Ward. If you elect me, you will see me. Regularly.</p>
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