



Vote For a Sustainable Peterborough

Candidate Name: Paul Rellinger

Running for: Ward 4 - Ashburnham

<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Economic Policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The retrofitting of existing homes should be encouraged via the offering of tax rebates, scaled depending on the extent of the retrofit. As well, approval of new development - be it residential, commercial or industrial - must be dependent on the implementation of measures that will reduce their carbon footprint while moving them closer to 100 percent renewable energy reliant. It's key that the City make it clear that standards in this regard are expected of all new development and site plan approval will be withheld until the condition is satisfied.• An up-to-date inventory of all vacant spaces in the city must be completed as soon as possible with an eye on the development of those spaces as affordable rental units. Again, incentives must be available to the owners of these properties to entice them to make the necessary renovations to upgrade for occupancy. Too many properties in this city, particularly in the downtown core, have sat empty too long. I support any creative solution that expedites their being repaired, brought up to code and made available as living space.
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<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Cultural Policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a huge supporter of Peterborough's arts and heritage communities, I am distressed over what I see as a failure to fully celebrate those sectors on a consistent basis and reap the benefits both bring to the city. One of Peterborough biggest challenges going forward - perhaps the biggest - is ensuring that what we have isn't diminished or lost in the rush to welcome new development. Both can so-exist and must do so if we're to build the Peterborough we all want. The debacle which almost saw us lose the building that houses the Black Horse Pub should never happen again. We must protect our heritage treasures and should move quickly to ensure designation is granted where warranted. As for the arts community, it has been Peterborough's best-kept secret for far too long. Silence isn't golden in this case. We must promote the city as an arts and music destination on a year-round basis and provide the necessary supports to make that happen.• Multiculturalism gives a city a unique persona and life. We're blessed to have the New Canadians' Centre here. It does Peterborough an excellent service by embracing those new to the city and integrating them into daily life. I'd like to see that taken a step further via the establishment of an advisory committee, comprised of newcomers, that will report challenges and needs directly to city councillors with the goal of establishing policies that will make the transition for newcomers smoother while nipping at the start potential problems associated with the transition.
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<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Social Policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I attended a Peterborough Public Health round table involving candidates held earlier this year, I identified food insecurity and inadequate housing as the two greatest public health risks in the city. All good things stem from people being able to eat and feel secure in their place of residence. Take either or both away and other challenges emerge quickly. City council must take a more active role in ensuring both areas are addressed in a meaningful way. Creative solutions are needed and councillors have to be part of that conversation. • Homelessness is something we're all aware of but yet little has been done to address the matter. The challenge lies in it being such a huge fix. It's overwhelming. The key to a solution of any kind lies in breaking it down into smaller, more manageable segments and brainstorming solutions. Again, city council has an obligation to be a leader in this area, directing staff as required and approving policies and measures that will ease the plight of the homeless. Long range, encouraging the private sector with incentives to provide on-the-job training will go a long way to helping the homeless get back on their feet and work towards a better situation for themselves.
<p>Please tell us what policies you would support that address the goal of Ensuring Sustainable Environmental Policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new residential development must include a set percentage of green space and natural areas before gaining approval. When I worked in Whitby in the mid 1980s covering City Hall for Oshawa This Week, I saw this in action. It was a requirement of all residential developers that park land be included in their site plans. Today Whitby has more parks than most communities its size. That didn't happen by accident. The same demand must be made of developers here. • We will never cast our vehicles aside. That said, as a municipality, we must provide the infrastructure for those who want to take advantage of healthy transportation alternatives. Any new road, or reconstruction of existing roads, must include the addition of cycling and pedestrian-friendly lanes and routes. This includes The Parkway extension should it be approved. In addition, Peterborough Transit must be reviewed thoroughly, and regularly, to ensure it is providing the best possible service and is affordable. Again, transit users must be at that table. They know the system better than anyone else and know where it can, and should, be improved. Their voice has to be heard.



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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>When I look back on the process which led to council's approval of the sale of PDI to Hydro One, I come to one inescapable conclusion: As upset as people were with the sale, many were more upset with the process itself. Too much secrecy. Too much behind-closed-doors discussion. Very little, if any, transparency. Overall, the optics were very bad, leading to even more frustration and anger. It's imperative that residents feel their voices are being heard and considered in all decisions affecting them directly and their community in general. Anything short of that borders on dictatorship. The current process which sees council make decisions on the same evening it hears input from residents is unsatisfactory and fuels the sense that councillors aren't taking their expressed concerns into full consideration. I would be open to any changes or measures that ensure residents' voices are not only heard but given their due before council votes are taken.</p>
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