

## Marco Ancinelli for McKellar Council

### Working to Improve Our Community Environment

Throughout my years in the McKellar community, both as a rate payer and a public servant, I have learned that ours is a township with a lot to offer its members and visitors. The natural beauty here is second to none, and this affords wonderful recreational opportunities throughout all seasons. There is a vibrant social life here, with events and clubs that encourage individual involvement and personal growth while strengthening social relationships. We have a close proximity and a solid working relationship with Parry Sound, and this provides us many economic and experiential benefits as well. My overall objective in Council is to uphold, enhance and improve the infrastructure, industry, culture, and attitudes of our thriving community environment.

McKellar's advantages can be maximized by having the right Council representation. Since the responsibility of Council is to service our community in an efficient and economically viable way, the most productive Council team is composed of diverse individuals with similar vision and varied talents, brought together in service. I hope to inspire your confidence and become part of the Council team once again this term. I have received strong feedback from our ratepayers to run again for the 2022 election based on my leadership and my visions for McKellar, both for the present and the township's future.

### Giving to Our Community

My desire to lead in McKellar is backed by my professional experience. For the last 20 years, I have been a full-time educator in the secondary panel, and it is my most sincere goal to facilitate the development of skills in others so that they are always striving to better themselves and are also seeing results they can feel good about. This translates into my desire to bring out the best for the individual members of our community and promote self-empowerment.

I am a business owner of over 25 years, and this lends itself to my ability to see the big picture including what is required to bring about a desired outcome even in a challenging economy. I have an LLB Law degree which forms the backbone for my legal office in Parry Sound. This business has been a way for me to involve myself in the local surroundings of McKellar while adding to my understanding of ways to enhance the community at large. My interest and background in the legal system is useful in informing Council-level decision making.

As a volunteer for the McKellar Fire Department, I have further been able to serve the members of our community in a necessary and profound way. Being in the McKellar fire department for the last 12 years has helped me understand the community members by assisting many in their times of need.

I have also previously served three years on the McKellar Council, a term which was cut short in August of 2021 due to an inability for the Council to come to unanimous decisions. Leaving was a choice I took very seriously. This situation underscores the belief I hold that a strong Council brings together members who have the greatest good in mind for their constituents, along with the ability to plan together for the desired outcomes. I would like to continue to channel my professional experience and training to the community of McKellar through participation on Council.

## A Workable Path Forward

Council has to work as a team along with the residents to have unity and a strong township. With my commitment to the values of the McKellar community, I am willing to vote in favor of what is the best decision that represents the sentiments of the largest number of McKellar ratepayers, not just the loudest members. I believe that I have valuable insights and can offer guidance for our community members to consider as the Council and the community work together. I believe in developing and practicing proactive and positive communication with the public so that all have the opportunity to know what the Council is planning and how these plans can benefit McKellar. I am committed to integrating ratepayer feedback into Council planning and I encourage healthy and respectful discussion.

Moving forward with new Council members, I support those that are running for Council who share a forward thinking mindset. Having a team of Council members with strong leadership and the ability to foresee what is best for the future of McKellar is what this township needs. Effective municipal government also involves **transparency** regarding the actions that Council is taking and the reasons behind them. Having staff resources and a productive Council would give McKellar stability and allow development while maintaining the tranquility of a rural life that we have grown to appreciate.

After spending some time on Council, I have suggestions for some potential changes that could result in both short-term and long-term improvements for residents.

**Financial management** should be a strong asset for McKellar and I do believe we could have this moving forward with the right candidates in Council. Using the tools that the provincial and federal Government gives us, including grants and low interest rates, would optimize and put McKellar's best interests first.

In the short-term I have a proposal that would allow for a rebate on the taxes of our ratepayers who have a home property value assessment of \$300,000 or lower. Encouraging new businesses to come and set up in McKellar will help our rates directly through the resulting economic development in our community.

I also believe in debentures for township investments rather than paying for everything upfront. Having a debenture loan would spread the payments on such items as township buildings, materials and equipment, over the years to come, requiring only the ratepayers that are

benefiting from the purchase to contribute payments for it at any given time. Conversely, paying cash would only have our current ratepayers bear full financial responsibility for these investments, not knowing how long they will be in the community, and this to me is an unfair ask.

In my previous term on Council, I was part of the short lived Short Term Rental Ad Hoc Committee. I would like to continue with this work, putting in place educational opportunities for interested community members so that they **know their rights and obligations** when renting out to the public. This should prevent many of the damages and disturbances that have sometimes accompanied cottage rentals in the past. I believe educating our ratepayers on the issues that concern our environment would be first and foremost to everyone on the lake and our township, as it affects us all, both in health and our investments.

Another short-term goal that is very meaningful to me is the reintegration of a transparent economy that I was able to bring about during my previous term on Council. I am very proud to have helped achieve a higher degree of fiscal responsibility within the township based on a more closely vetted budget and **increased accountability** to the McKellar ratepayers.

I also believe in the importance of long-term investments in environmental maintenance and upkeep. This can result from improved access to waste management services. One way to achieve this end is to have two transfer stations, one on either side of the lake, with extended hours of operation. This would provide **convenient access** for more ratepayers and encourage proper disposal of waste and recyclables. Alternatively, we could seek a deal with our neighboring municipalities to use their transfer stations for ratepayers closer to the south side of the lake. This would help them as they would not have to drive to center road to drop off their waste before heading home.

A central focus for McKellar is our aging community. A lot of people are coming to McKellar to retire. We need to put support in place for our aging ratepayers, ensuring access to **home care and hospice care**.

I am a full supporter of the McKellar Market, and work to maintain its welcoming of both vendors and shoppers. Minerva Park is a great place for the market as shoppers can come by boat or car. Having the market by the waterfront gives it a unique ambiance that not all municipalities can have. Working with Jan Gipson, the McKellar Market Manager, along with Don Carmichael and Ron Harrison, I am a fully committed advocate for the McKellar Market to succeed in Minerva Park.

I believe in facilitating the highest number of interested ratepayers to attend Council meetings. McKellar is growing, with younger families, many of which are working during the day and not able to arrange for weekday Council meetings. Being a rate payer from the city myself, I do believe having Council meetings on Saturdays can help our community more readily come

together as one. This is one way the township can advance forward with what's best for McKellar through inclusivity.

These are a few ideas I have in mind for Council initiatives, and I wish to continue looking for ways to improve McKellar that are in keeping with the established values that have made me feel so welcomed and so much a part of a safe, vibrant and positive community environment.

## Already Delivered

In the past, I have been on numerous successful boards for the improvement of bylaws. Working collaboratively and in an open-minded manner when dealing with sensitive community matters has produced strong results. Here is a short list of past accomplishments which I completed while acting in my previous term on Council.

I organized a more convenient way for tax payments to be made by getting most of the major banks to accept e transfer payments from ratepayers. Additionally, it was arranged such that there are no fees to the township or the ratepayers.

I have helped with the development of the Farm to Fork business in McKellar, working hand in hand with the building inspector and the OMAFRA to help local Farms on their journey.

BEST, or the Business Economic Development & Tourism ad hoc Committee was one of the committees which I chaired. With BEST, I tried to remove roadblocks for new businesses starting in McKellar while also assisting existing businesses in a friendly and accessible manner. My committee was a strong, knowledgeable committee with entrepreneurs and business minded people. We helped local businesses with any questions and concerns they had.

I improved the McKellar Fire Department's operational efficiency with regard to equipment and resources. Working with Don Carmichael and the acting Fire Chief, Ron Harrison, I presented this issue to the Council, resulting in the implementation of new resources and funds for training for the fire fighters.

McKellar Township had several fiscally unnecessary expenditures in place that had passed the auditor's review, but which I aimed to improve, starting with putting Council, as well as our township staff, on salary. I brought McKellar Council in line with CRA rules for expense claims. Also going paperless in Council was a great saving to the township, factoring in both time for the staff and funds for the paper. I also made a Facebook page for the township so Council would be able to communicate with the ratepayers at different levels. I also created a Google account for the clerk to facilitate easy sharing of documents for meeting agendas to both Council and ratepayers.

I supported, and remain in support of, the McKellar Action Plan, bringing together all concerned ratepayers. Interested full time and seasonal ratepayers came together as one in a meeting to discuss their priorities and what they viewed to be best for McKellar moving forward.

## Vote for a Stronger Future

I am once again running for Council because I want to be part of a **collaborative team** to which I can contribute my strengths to bring about solid improvement where necessary, addressing the issues and concerns that are considered most important by the majority, as expressed through the many available legitimate channels of communication that Council has in place. My **dedication** to always put the best interests of the township first continues, and as Councilor, my objective continues to be giving back to the community for a better, stronger future. I believe a strong team of knowledgeable Councilors and staff would bring McKellar into a **brighter and more vibrant future**. I am running for Council 2022 again because I genuinely do believe in McKellar. Make your **Vote Count McKellar** on October 11th to October 24th.