

**Dear fellow McKellar residents,**

I am thrilled to be able to introduce myself; my name is Suzanne Poff. I moved to McKellar a year ago from the Town of Georgina where I owned a gardening business for many years which specialized in native plantings. Once I moved here, I retired from gardening but continue to help residents with garden design and consultations. The environment has always been a passion of mine. I am an avid birder, environmentalist, and have been a member of numerous environment and wildlife organizations over time, often partaking in different studies.

Since moving here, I have been eager to be involved in this beautiful area and close community. I joined the MLCA and Lake Stewardship & Environment Committee to help keep McKellar the beautiful place many of us call home. I have attended and participated in council meetings and have followed along with many of the concerns that residents have shared on social media and in person at the meetings. I share those concerns and here is my stance on Short Term Rentals, the Parry Sound Recreation Centre (pool), the Environment and the McKellar Market.

### ***Short Term Rentals***

I understand that many property owners need to rent out their cottage to offset the costs of owning that cottage. I have some friends that do this as it is the only way that they can afford to enjoy a piece of paradise. The concern is that some short-term renters may cause disturbances and may not care about any damage they may cause, such as to the septic system. A faulty septic system can seriously damage our environment, especially our ground and lake water. For this reason, I believe there should be strict rental guidelines in place and regular monitoring of those (what I call the part-time short term) rentals. I support those rentals, however I do not support the purchasing of properties to be used strictly as short term rental facilities.

### ***Parry Sound Recreational Centre***

I believe recreation facilities are important for our communities and serve as a hub for doing activities and for our residents to come together. My reservations, however, lie with the cost of this new building. As the wife of a general contractor I've seen first-hand how material and labour costs have increased dramatically in the last few years, plus add to that a shortage of materials and I don't feel this is a good financial fit for our township at this time. The current development plan and funding formula can be revisited in future. Perhaps we could use more of our funds within our community to enhance our current beach, parks and trails.

### ***The Environment***

When I told my family and friends I was moving here they commented, "You're moving to God's country" and boy were they right! Any time I'm driving home from being away for a period of time, my heart soars as I hit the bend where Manitouwabing Lake comes into view on highway 124. I enter McKellar and think, it's so good to be home! I'm sure all of us feel that way about our beloved township.

I support the Manitouwabing Lake Community Association and the Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee in continuing to test our waters, get out important educational information and help our permanent and seasonal residents learn all they can to keep our environment and lakes healthy so each generation after us can continue to enjoy what we do every day.

## **McKellar Market**

I cannot say enough positive things about the McKellar Market; it is a wonderfully run and beautifully located market which has drawn in many local small businesses. As a small business owner I fully support venues such as the McKellar Market to grow our small business community. I'm glad that Jan Gibson fought so hard to keep the market at Minerva Park and she will have my full support to keep it there.

## **Who am I?**

I enjoy spending time in my gardens, hiking with my border collies, bird watching and having tea with my neighbours or new friends in the community. I also create artistic pieces to sell or give away and write a weekly article about a wide variety of gardening and landscaping topics. I volunteer as much as I can with various bird study groups and have joined 4 committees in the Parry Sound area since moving here. Continuously reading and learning about all things environmental is important to me and so is sharing my knowledge with others when I can.

I have a background in retail then worked for a major financial services company for many years where I was responsible for financial management, client confidentiality and processing client requests. I then decided to pursue my passion for gardening and opened my own successful gardening company where I enjoyed making garden spaces beautiful. Client satisfaction was my priority, yet with my business I also developed important budgeting and bookkeeping skills.

## **So why vote for the new girl?**

If we had a chance to sit and chat you would find me to be an open-minded and honest person who is passionate about helping our community and improving life and services for our residents. I'm not easily influenced by others yet welcome the opportunity to work with fellow councillors to accomplish our goals for the benefit of our community. I'm dedicated to preserving McKellar's close-knit community feel while finding improvements to take us into an even brighter future.

I will bring my vibrant energy and a fresh perspective to the issues that concern our residents. I'm kind, caring and always approachable and would love to hear your thoughts, your story and get to know you! I will work hard for the residents of McKellar so please vote for me, Suzanne Poff for Councillor, so I can help keep this community the place we all love.

You can find me on Facebook as 'Suzanne Poff for McKellar' where I'll gladly answer any questions you may have for me, or e-mail me at [sue@allsummerscape.com](mailto:sue@allsummerscape.com)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and I look forward to meeting you!