

All Candidates Meeting Ratepayers' Questions

Questions are directed to all Candidates unless otherwise noted.

Ratepayer	Topic	Question
Craig Smith	Building Size	Some new cottages and residences seem to be inappropriately large. Do you agree with that, and what would you do to control the size of new buildings?
David O'Rourke	Dark Skies	What is your position regarding Dark Sky Friendly initiatives? Would you support a by-law to reduce light scatter from artificial lighting and light trespass conditions from neighbouring properties?
Adrian Tait	Dysfunction	The previous McKellar Council experienced lots of dysfunction. Two councillors resigned, while the other two stayed on and completed their terms of office. All four are running for election again. How can voters be confident that elected council members will stay and do the job they were elected to do?
David O'Rourke	Fireworks	Would you support a by-law to restrict the use of privately initiated Fireworks Displays with the intent to limit Fireworks Displays to those operated on behalf of the township on specific celebratory dates. And that the Fireworks Displays should be of nature that is wildlife and animal friendly
Craig Smith	Lake Health	There seems to be an increase in cottage owners landscaping their properties, and in particular, landscaping their shorelines. Are you concerned about the affect this is having on water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat? If so, what will you do about it?
Don Sneyd	Lake Health	In recent years we are dealing with many issues regarding environmental threats to our watershed in the township of McKellar, damaged shorelines, diminishing fisheries, global warming, E-coli and blue green algae in our lakes. Municipalities cannot wait for large environmental issues to arise but must instead plan to be pro active in preventing declining future environmental quality on our waterways. The catastrophic effects of the loss of water quality would not only damage the environment and reduce property values but present a serious threat to the health of our citizens. Please respond to your position how and when You would act on a septic inspection program, a more comprehensive lake capacity study including rental property impact and increased waterfront year round residency and a plan to restore our fisheries.

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Michelle Ballantyne	Market	My question concerns the McKellar Summer Market, I would like to know which of you support the Market at its present highly successful location in Minerva Park and which of you wish to have it moved to the community center/ice rink location.
Cathy Rothwell	Market	<p>The McKellar Market is THE most successful event we have here. In addition to fantastic vendors, one of the most attractive features is its current location in Minerva Park. It's absolutely beautiful on the waterfront and we have the added bonus of being able to take our boats to attend. Very few markets offer this.</p> <p>Despite its tremendous success at the current location, we are hearing rumblings that some candidates would be in favour of moving it to the community centre or worse doing away with it completely. An informal poll was conducted on Facebook last spring where the overwhelming majority made it very clear that the market should be left exactly where it is.</p> <p>I'd like to hear what each candidates thoughts are on this subject. Are you in favour of leaving the market where it is to continue to flourish or do you want it moved and if so why? Are you in favour of closing the market and if so why?</p>
Peter Brewster	Public Access to Lakes	There are currently three instances of attempts being made by land owners to restrict public access to public lakes that are either wholly or partially in McKellar: Grey Owl Lake, Fresque Lake, Vowells Lake. Free and unrestricted access to public lakes is a right. It is unconscionable to buy land on a public lake then attempt to make the lake private in some way. What are the candidates' positions on enforcing and maintaining access to public lakes?
Lynne and Scott Aylsworth	Roads Policy	<p>We would like to know your stance on the Township of McKellar Roads Policy.</p> <p>Will this Policy be one of the top 3 items to be discussed at your council meetings and finalized before the end of the 2022 so we can all move forward?</p> <p>Has the Town not already hired an Engineering Company to assist with this process? If so, is there a report that will be used to move the Roads Policy forward?</p> <p>When will this Roads Policy get finalized so that all roads owned by the Town of McKellar can be maintained by the Town of McKellar?</p>

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Lynne and Scott Aylsworth	Sound System in Community Centre/Town Hall	We understand a lot of money was spent on the new and improved sound system so that if you could not attend a meeting of any kind, you could do so via zoom. From what we have seen this is not working very well and once again our tax dollars have been spent on this up to date system and it does not work properly. Not only can we not hear what everyone is saying, we, the public, cannot voice our opinion due to the fact that we could not hear anything. It is ridiculous and we would like to know when this is going to be rectified so that we can all hear what is going on in these meetings.
Tamara Bier	Specific Candidate	This question is directed at Marco Ancinelli and Don Carmicheal, the two candidates who were elected for this current term of council. You both quit together mid-term causing turmoil within the township. Why should the residents of McKellar vote you back in when you both ran away the first time, and how can you stand there and say "we get things done" when you clearly didn't the first time around?
Tamara Bier	Specific Candidate	Since Mr. Ancinelli, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Ryeland and Mr. Harrison are all running together as one "team", a potential dictatorship here, does this mean that when the going gets tough you all quit together? How can we trust your integrity?
Craig Smith	Specific Candidate	Questions for Ron Harrison, Don Carmichael, Marco Ancinelli and Nick Ryeland: Three of the candidates for Councillor and one of the candidates for Mayor have formed a team. If all of them were successful in getting elected, how will they act towards the remaining Councillor, whoever that might be?
Craig Smith	Specific Candidate	Question for Ron Harrison: Your platform refers to things you would do in your first 90 days, such as "new services" and "fix internet." Can you expand on that: what new services? How would you fix the internet?
Craig Smith	Specific Candidate	Question for David Moore: You served for many years, but have been out of politics for a while. Why should people vote for you now, as opposed to voting for someone new and moving forward?
Craig Smith	Specific Candidate	Question for Suzanne Poff: You support the work of the Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee. Exactly what actions do you think the Township should undertake to protect the environment? Can you provide details?

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Cathy Rothwell	Specific Councillor	<p>This question is for Don Carmichael and Marco Ancinelli. As we are all aware, both of you resigned from council in August of 2021. From what I understand you did this as a result of what you felt were council conduct code violations.</p> <p>The end result of your resignations was that we ended up being represented by two people who did not run for or were elected to council for the last year. While not happy with that decision, I also would have not been happy to see tax payer dollars used for a bi-election. Your constituents were left with a lose-lose situation as a result of your actions.</p> <p>I am concerned that if elected, you may end up resigning again leaving us in the same position. We need councillors who are willing to stand tough and fight for what they feel is in our best interest. Not walk away. What guarantee can you offer that if elected, you will remain on council for the duration of your term?</p>
Craig Smith	STR	What are the candidates' views on short-term rentals - should they be banned, regulated, or left alone as they are now?
Helen Pallett	Tax Increases	There are many McKellar residents who are either retired and on a fixed income or are considered low income. It is extremely concerning that property taxes continue to increase year over year. While some increase in taxation is typical and usually expected, what is being done by Council to control and keep the level of taxation to a minimum for McKellar residents?
Helen Pallett	Team Approach	It appears that we have 4 candidates running together as a "team". We have political parties at the federal and the provincial levels of government that contributes to polarization but thankfully not at the municipal level. If these 4 candidates are all elected to office and intend to operate as a team as they have stated, they will have total control of Council and they will not need to listen to the views of the 5th Councillor or the views of their constituents. If elected as a block, how can these 4 candidates ensure/guarantee that this polarization will not occur at McKellar Council?

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Cathy Rothwell	Transparency and Communication	<p>The last council did not always conduct open and transparent meetings. Many sessions were conducted in camera with details kept from ratepayers. In addition, some meeting agendas and minutes were posted late if at all and some meeting audio recordings were nowhere to be found. More often than not, technical difficulties were blamed for the public not being able to attend a meeting virtually when because of the pandemic, we were unable to physically attend.</p> <p>What steps will you take to ensure meetings are open to the public unless closure is specifically authorized under the Municipal Act and there is a REAL need to exclude the public?</p> <p>What is your plan for finally getting the technology for electronic meetings up and running so ratepayers can attend virtually?</p> <p>Lastly what will you do to ensure agendas and minutes are prepared and published in a timely and efficient manner?</p>
Adrian Tait	Wellness Centre	In regards to the wellness centre, Had council considered how much use the swimming pool facilities at the Jolly Roger are being used, and if they are not adequately being used, why would a wellness centre be used more? Has there been a study of/for comparison to see if financially viable?
Adrian Tait	Wellness Centre	Do you (council) think that the money spent by the provincial government can be utilized by purchasing the Jolly Roger facility which may be more cost efficient as minimal upgrade or construction may be required versus a new construction building?
Craig Smith	Wellness Centre	In a recent Parry Sound North Star story, the chair of the pool steering committee warned that the project costs and timing of the construction will change, and that they may need to go back to the partner municipalities to cover the costs. What are the candidates' plans for containing the costs, and should the pool project proceed as it is currently proposed?

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Helen Pallett	Wellness Centre	<p>I read recently that the Parry Sound Pool Complex is a "done deal" but that the committee will be revisiting the financial implications for the entire project. Given these inflationary times the country and indeed the world finds itself in currently and in the foreseeable future, if the budget for this project changes in any way, where will the monies come from and how will McKellar finance its contribution and at what cost (both annually and for the life of the project) and how will it directly affect taxpayers in McKellar? Additionally, how is McKellar financing its current commitment to the Pool Project?</p>
Lynne and Scott Aylsworth	Wellness Centre	<p>We do not recall ever having any public input with respect to the Parry Sound Pool Complex. There may be a few residents of McKellar that would utilize the pool but we do not know what that number is as there does not seem to be any input into this issue from the public. Therefore, why is it that we had no input on how you spend our tax dollars for a pool that is not in our Township?</p> <p>We understand that other Townships are contributing to the cost of this pool complex. Is it mandatory that the Townships surrounding Parry Sound must contribute to this project?</p> <p>We would like to know is there a way to get out of this commitment and/or contribute less money towards the pool complex?</p> <p>Why don't you hold a Referendum during the election (which has been done in past elections) to ask who wants to contribute to a Pool Complex in Parry Sound and/or who wants the Town of McKellar to use our tax dollars to help fund this pool?</p> <p>If there is not enough time to hold a referendum during this election, then maybe all of you elected should figure out a way to ask all the residents of McKellar, via mail, survey monkey or hold a referendum in 6 months to get our input.</p>