

2020 Laurie Sandeson - Candidate District 2

1. Now that Highspeed broadband will be installed over the next three years in Colchester and Cumberland Counties in a \$60.1-Million project with Xplornet what additional infrastructure should Colchester provide within the program to improve the local economy?

The Municipality should explore distance education computer software platforms for those people in rural areas who would like to upgrade or enroll in continuing education courses. Examples of distance learning platforms include Brightspace and Moodle.

With the business slow down over the past several months due to the pandemic, it has become even more important for small businesses to consider e-commerce. The Municipality should support e-commerce training for those businesses who wish to move to on-line sales.

Access to family doctors and medical services has not improved a whole lot over the past few years. Having high speed internet in rural areas will enable access to medical professionals through virtual appointments and consults.



Laurie Sandeson

2. What do you believe is the most important issue(s) for your District?

Job creation is of critical importance to my District, the entire Municipality and the Province. District 2 is a largely agricultural regions with predominantly dairy, beef and horticultural production. New innovations, technologies and value-added products offer potential for the creation of exciting jobs in a growing and dynamic agricultural sector. The Faculty of Agriculture (students and researchers) should be encouraged to collaborate with progressive farmers in the community offering access to research, demonstration and experimentation projects. The Agricultural "Sandbox" at Dalhousie can play a key role in new business start-up ideas.

3. Should taxpayers on J-class roads be asked to contribute 25%-50% of repaving or rebuilding costs?

It is my understanding that J-class roads are owned by the province but are maintained through a cost-share agreement between the Municipalities and Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Unfortunately, budgets fall short each year and many roads do not receive the attention they deserve. Any additional taxes being requested from residents and businesses in the County would have to be discussed and debated fully before any decisions of this nature are made.

4. Should Colchester Municipal council make infrastructure investments in Debert Airport and Debert Business Park among its top three priorities?

The County of Colchester has developed a Master Plan for the Debert Airport and Business Park. The infrastructure improvements required at these locations have been identified and a phased-in approach has been proposed. As budget allows, the Municipality should follow the Plan. The Debert Business Park is home to several large businesses/distribution centres and the airport can now accommodate larger aircraft. Air freight will become increasingly important as more businesses move to on-line sales/e-commerce. Recently, the County developed a new website and better signage for the Debert region in an effort to attract new enterprises to the area.

5. With real estate costs in Halifax soaring to new heights, should Colchester encourage new or existing sub-division developments to attract new residents who wish to live in "quasi-rural" areas, to enjoy a different lifestyle?

Yes. This has been a key marketing pitch of the Truro and Colchester Partnership for Prosperity (the region's Regional Enterprise Network). The County of Colchester is launching a new brand - "Be Centred Here" - which promotes the region as a desirable place to live, work and visit.

6. What level of priority do you place on marketing the county as a desirable place to live and invest in attracting new residents, who might start or purchase an existing business?

There should be a high priority placed on marketing the County as an ideal place to live, explore and start or purchase a business. The Truro area is a central transportation hub, part of the Halifax to Moncton Corridor with about 1 Million people and is in close proximity to an international airport and seaport. Our communities and culture are diverse and celebrated in many different ways throughout the year. Colchester County offers an affordable, welcoming and family-focused environment with all the modern amenities offered in an urban setting. Colchester County has one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the province and maintains a balanced budget year after year.

7. Colchester has a new hospital, RECC centre, Dal Ag Campus, Nova Scotia Community College, excellent geographical location and many other assets all within two hours drive to other major urban centres and almost one million consumers. What does the municipality need to focus on to be the fastest growing municipality in the province?

The Municipality needs to continue to support the Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, a regional enterprise network consisting of Millbrook First Nation, Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and the Province of Nova Scotia. Together, we can become even stronger as a destination for business start-ups and expansions as well as a place that has an unparalleled quality of life. We can now boast a UNESCO-designated geopark - the "Cliffs of Fundy Geopark" which will undoubtedly attract visitors from far and wide.

8. What approach to municipal governance will you take to obtain the important things in your district?

I am totally committed to a collaborative approach to governance, particularly in a region that is home to several municipal units. When challenges arise, I like to problem solve and offer up alternative ideas. I am a good listener and welcome input, discussion and exchange of ideas on any given issue.

9. What is most needed in your district?

As mentioned in Question 2, we need jobs in the region, particularly jobs for new graduates. As the One Nova Scotia Report suggested, there won't be a lot of jobs waiting for graduates as they enter the work force. New jobs will have to be created by entrepreneurial-thinking individuals who recognize gaps in the marketplace. I believe there will be opportunities in value-added agriculture, tourism and hospitality and senior services.

10. What professional or personal experience do you bring to the council table?

I am the current Chair of the Colchester East Hants Health Centre Foundation and have a very good understanding of how to run effective and efficient meetings. I am Past President of the Rotary Club of Truro and continue to be involved in leadership roles on the Board including Co-Chair of Youth Services.

I was Managing Director of AgriTECH Park, an agri-biotechnology incubation facility that attracted business start-ups to the region. My 32 year career as a public servant has given me lots of insight into how government works. Living on a small family farm, I understand the importance of keeping farms viable and sustainable - they are the backbone of our rural economy.

2020 Mike Cooper - Candidate District 4

Now that Highspeed broadband will be installed over the next three years in Colchester and Cumberland Counties in a \$60.1-Million project with Xplornet what additional infrastructure should Colchester provide within the program to improve the local economy?

Colchester already has a variety of programs in place to generate economic growth and aid with sports and recreation activities. Reliable highspeed broadband internet is a major tool in ensuring these programs succeed and make the daily lives of all our residents better. Ensuring these programs are functioning properly and our residents are prepared to make use of them is a key element to fully utilize the provision of highspeed broadband. My main role is ensuring highspeed broadband is installed in as short a time and to the best extent possible and we are all fully prepared to make use of it.



Mike Cooper

What do you believe is the most important issue(s) for your District?

Beyond the acquisition of reliable highspeed broadband for 100% of Colchester County (Yes 100%, I pushed for that) the key issue would surely be the Covid 19 Pandemic. People are worried about their jobs, what is going to happen with the economy, What does the future hold for them and their families. In times like these I am happy to offer people confidence in that future.

In addition to the highspeed internet agreement, it was just announced that our Cliffs Of Fundy Geopark has received UNESCO Designation, joining us into an elite group of 161 Geoparks worldwide. This alone will push Tourism to unprecedented levels.

One additional issue is keeping our tax rate low. This is even more important with the Economic stresses at the Federal and Provincial levels. I commit to and am confident I can help make that happen.

Should taxpayers on J-class roads be asked to contribute 25%-50% of repaving or rebuilding costs?

Yes 50% - these are roads owned by the province of Nova Scotia. The J-Class Road Program is simply a provincial download. Instead of the province paying 100% of the repaving costs to properly keep up these roads, they "indicate" they are not planning to do any repaving on these roads. Then they offer to repave some of these roads and pay 50% of the cost if the Municipality arranges for the other 50% of the costs to be covered.

If the residents in question are not going to lobby the provincial government to properly pay 100% of the cost to fix their roads then these residents should be willing to pay the other 50% of the cost. None of these roads are in my District (District 4) so it should not be expected the residents of District 4 (or any other District) should pay for this work to be done.

Should Colchester Municipal council make infrastructure investments in Debert Airport and Debert Business Park among its top three priorities?

There is high potential for growth in the Debert Business Park and Debert airport. A great deal of work and planning has already gone into this area. With major companies expressing interest in the Park and Airport, now is the time to focus our priorities there.

With real estate costs in Halifax soaring to new heights, should Colchester encourage new or existing sub-division developments to attract new residents who wish to live in "quasi-rural" areas, to enjoy a different lifestyle?

This is a redundant question.

We are continually working on new, or expanding existing initiatives to make Colchester an attractive place to Live, Work and Play. Sub-division developments are just one way people and businesses are encouraged to move to Colchester. Our low tax rate, large tracts of land available for commercial and residential development plus numerous recreational and cultural activities, all combine to make Colchester an attractive place to call home.

What level of priority do you place on marketing the county as a desirable place to live and invest in attracting new residents, who might start or purchase an existing business?

Continuing on the theme in question 5, Colchester County is ready to reap the benefits from our many accomplishments in the last term of council. We now have the Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP). This is an organization where the Municipality of Colchester is in partnership with The Chamber of Commerce, business leaders, as well as the Towns of Truro and Stewiacke, Millbrook First Nation and the Government of Nova Scotia.

Within this cooperative venture we strive to drive business growth and economic growth. New staff have been hired who are experts in Tourism and Economic Development. Our Fundy Discovery Site is continually evolving and is now the head attraction in our new UNESCO Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. Events Truro Colchester has been active in procuring a superb array of cultural and sporting attractions and is ready to resume post-Covid.

And of course a key attraction to any person or business thinking of locating here is reliable, highspeed internet. I am very proud of the

agreement just signed with the province and Xplornet to provide this to 100% of Colchester County (Yes 100%-I pushed for that).

Colchester has a new hospital, RECC centre, Dal Ag Campus, Nova Scotia Community College, excellent geographical location and many other assets all within two hours drive to other major urban centres and almost one million consumers. What does the municipality need to focus on to be the fastest growing municipality in the province?

To put ourselves in the position to achieve unprecedented growth we must first tackle an unseen foe - Covid - 19. Council had the foresight to put aside a reserve of funds to address the economic impact the pandemic will have on our Municipality. Because of this we will be able to keep all the necessary pieces in place and jump start those areas that need it. This security will take us forward. The future is bright.

What approach to municipal governance will you take to obtain the important things in your district?

I will continue to be approachable, willing to listen and keen to learn. A true example of this was the direction being taken under a new dog kennel bylaw. After consultations with many residents and a number of groups I moved to a new direction and an amended bylaw. This amended bylaw not only achieved what needed to be done but was also very satisfactory to our residents and the relevant businesses.

In addition I am well respected on council having been elected for many years as Alternate Chair therefore serving on the Executive, Audit and Nominating Committees. I will continue to demonstrate the same level of commitment, trust, insight and reliability that has served me well over the last term of Council.

Finally I will commit to keeping the tax rate one of the lowest in the province

What is most needed in your district?

Having talked to hundreds of residents I understand the following to be the most needed: Roads are a big item (they are mostly a provincial responsibility in District 4 but there is a quarterly meeting now between Transportation and the County to relay key issues to them.)

Reliable highspeed internet (we need ensure the agreement signed by the province and Xplornet is taken to its full potential). Reliable cell phone coverage everywhere in the county (a key issue to pursue as it affects everyone). Maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in the province.

What professional or personal experience do you bring to the council table?

I have a Bachelor of Commerce from Dalhousie University; worked in business for 45 years, with H.R. Doane Chartered Accountants in 1975 and 1976 and as an Accountant, Controller, Office Manager since then.

I have served on many boards - School Advisory Council; Co-op Board; Treasurer of South Colchester Minor Hockey and President of Elm Valley Ball Association. A member of the Upper Stewiacke Springside United Church I have been an Elder, on the Board of Trustees and on the M & P committee. I have also volunteered as a Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager in many sports, (softball, hockey, soccer).

On Council I have served on the following: Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Dangerous and Unsightly Committee, Flood Advisory Committee, Livestock Control Appeals Committee, Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, Sewer Use Appeals Committee, Shubenacadie Canal Commission, St. Andrews Watershed Advisory Committee and Stewiacke Library Committee.

Mike Cooper is reoffering as a candidate for council and can be reached at: 902-956-1184 and mcooper@colchester.ca

RE-ELECT BOB TAYLOR

- EXPERIENCE
- PROVEN RECORD
- TEAM BUILDER & TEAM PLAYER
- ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS
- WILLING TO COMMUNICATE AND LISTEN
- A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

FUTURE PLANS

1. REVIEW OF POLICING SERVICES
Take the lead in a complete review of our policing services for better protection of our citizens and police officers.

2. RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORS TO ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTY
Be proactive in the recruitment and retention of doctors and nurse practitioners which are much needed in all parts of our community.

3. INVESTIGATE RURAL TRANSIT SERVICES
Work with the federal and provincial governments on grants that are available for rural/urban transit.

4. CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN PROJECTS
Continue work on green projects, such as wind energy and solar energy.

5. ENSURE THE COMPLETION OF THE BROAD BAND PROJECT
Ensure that broadband projects to our rural areas are completed.

6. CONTINUED SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES
Continued support and mentoring of our local businesses and retention of local ownership.

VOTE BOB TAYLOR OCTOBER 17TH
8am - 7pm

For more information visit bobtaylor.ca or call 902-893-8283