

2020 John Vissers - 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?

Make sure project objectives are met by delivering true high speed Internet, and then use that feature to attract more people into the area. We also need better cell coverage, as there are a lot of areas with no service.



John Vissers

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

Keeping property taxes low and having access to high speed Internet that is reliable and better cell service coverage.

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

Yes, they should be asked to contribute. It benefits them directly and is reflected in their property values.

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

Yes, there is great potential for more businesses to come to the area. It will create more local jobs, encouraging more of our young people to stay in Colchester County and increase the tax base.

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?

Absolutely and with increased access to high speed Internet we should be encouraging more growth for new residents to increase our tax base without having to raise taxes.

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?

I feel this should be a top priority. The more we grow our base of residents the more ability we have to keeping property taxes low.

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?

I think we just need to do a better job of selling all the things we have to offer, including a low tax rate, and with access to high speed internet county wide coming this is a strong selling feature for this county.

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

I would take the approach of working with all members of the council for the benefit of our county, remembering that low taxes and access to high speed Internet is important to my district.

What is most needed in your district?

High speed Internet that is reliable and keeping property taxes low, and better cell coverage.

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

With my brother-in-law Eli, we have successfully managed Winding River Farms to be one of the most innovative dairy farms in Nova Scotia. For example, being a recipient of the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Stewardship Award several years ago. I have spent nine years on the Nova Scotia dairy board representing other milk producers. Six years on the Colchester Hospital Foundation fund raising for the new hospital and helping the transition from the old hospital to the new. I have been a citizen representative on the County Planning and Advisory Committee dealing with everything from windmills to dog kennels for the last eight years. I am also a member of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Commission and also on the Natural Products Marketing Council.

2020 Lloyd Gibbs - Candidate District 5

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?

Council can be proud of the work done to bring this program into being. This program is giving Colchester the opportunity to be a leader within the province and will undoubtedly be a driver for growing our communities. In the immediate future, we need to ensure small businesses and home-based businesses have greater access to broadband internet and that this service remains affordable for both businesses and families. A dedicated education line for student online learning will undoubtedly be the way of the future.



Lloyd Gibbs

I'd like to see our new Council work toward investing in an "innovation centre" where technically inclined individuals could work together, share knowledge and develop new innovative technologies.

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

One of the most important issues facing District 5 is growing our population base as well as our economic sector. Second, is maintaining our quality of life by ensuring people have a family doctor, have more options available in terms of greenspaces and recreation opportunities, and have access to roads, sidewalks and crosswalks that put the safety of our citizens first.

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

No. Downloading onto taxpayers by the Province must stop.

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

The Debert Air Industrial Park has the potential to be an economic driver for this region, and over the years I have strongly supported infrastructure investments in Debert. Businesses and residential areas are consistently growing. We are exploring the potential of the airport becoming an air cargo terminal that could greatly assist local businesses. Where this will rank in MOC's priorities will need to be assessed post-pandemic.

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?

Colchester County currently provides an excellent quality of life. There are many approved building lots available now in the county. Council needs to concentrate on making our communities more attractive as places to come and settle. And one of the best ways to do this is by improving the services to our residents and potential businesses. Often the most successful and sustainable growth is organic. If MOC puts the best infrastructure and services in place that it can, growth will occur that attracts more residents. Then, private businesses will develop more subdivisions.

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?

My first priority is to the residents of District 5, improving their quality of life and ensuring they have access to the services they require. Attracting new residents and business is a part of that commitment. Again, if we build our communities, business will come as a result. For businesses to prosper they must have people to employ and people to purchase their products. I think we have a good base from which to market our county, a new teaching hospital, a modern recreation centre, a world-class university, exciting entertainment and sporting events, as well as a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

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?

Council needs to expand, and fund, its effort to recruit and retain family doctors. Whether it's a young family, a single, or a senior, everyone wants to be confident they will have primary health care before they put down roots in a new area. Council also needs to maintain its focus on infrastructure - better roads, sidewalks, flood control, recreational opportunities, as well as sustainable and green energy options. And, as we grow, a small public transit system may be well worth exploring.

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

My passion as a councillor is helping people. I embrace an opportunity to help eliminate a community problem, or to help connect someone with a problem to a program or service that will significantly improve their life.

At the council table I believe in teamwork; working with other councillors to pursue ideas and implement programs that will benefit all of Colchester.

From a "housekeeping" standpoint, Council must continue to upgrade policies and by-laws and develop new ones when required.

I would like to see more citizen interest and involvement in municipal governance. I used to be skeptical about the idea of live streaming Council meetings, but I now believe this may be the way to ensure transparency and foster citizens' participation.

What is most needed in your district?

District 5 needs improved roads, sidewalks and crosswalks to help ensure the safety of our residents. Preventative and ongoing flood mitigation is always critical. I've often thought District 5 could greatly benefit from a centrally located community centre. If there is citizen interest in such a project, it may be the time to ask staff to look into the feasibility of such a venue.

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

I began working in banking, operated my own contracting business for a while, and then finally settled in as a geologist in the oil and gas industry both in the Maritimes and Alberta. Retired for several years now, I have the time to devote to the residents of District 5. As well, I have served in a volunteer capacity on the boards of several non-for-profit entities.

2020 Colleen Doucette - Candidate District 5

By Colleen Doucette, B.A.

Rather than answering your questionnaire, I'll remain the non-traditional candidate and provide a different stream of thought. I think it's important to look at what the role of what municipal council is and what the role of a municipal councillor is because, I believe, the public concept of it has been blended with provincial and federal politics, and it is far from that.

Although a "political" office, it's neither left nor right, liberal or conservative. A council is a team and the team works together for the good of the whole. Therefore, some of the questions you have posed are not some that I can answer because I don't know the facts and, as such, I would be providing a personal diatribe. However, I can provide a voice for the residents of the district I would represent.

A municipal councillor's main role is to represent the interests and priorities of the constituents who have elected them. One of the biggest reasons I'm running for council is to increase participation of the public. This is key for a healthy and representative democracy. I want the residents of ALL districts of the municipality to feel that their council is providing enough opportunity for feedback and opinions and I want them to feel represented. Meanwhile, the council's role is to make policy and high-level governance decisions, and they 1) adopt strategy, 2) pass bylaws and policy, and 3) adopt budgets.



Colleen Doucette

If I am elected, I would need to assess the current state of the municipality along with the priorities of the council. Only then would I be able to set goals and expectations for the council, (and myself!). Until that time, I can't prognosticate on what additional infrastructure Colchester should provide to improve the local economy because highspeed broadband will be installed, or whether Colchester should consider new or existing sub-division developments to attract new residents because real estate costs in Halifax are soaring to new heights, or what the municipality needs to focus on to be the fastest-growing municipality in the province because I am not well enough informed on these issues.

My experience in business and leadership, and the success I have created for the company which I am the president of, is my own personal proof that I am the right person for this role. I take everything into consideration, am not afraid to bring new ideas to the table, I don't take anyone for granted, I appreciate everyone's opinions, but I make sound judgements and decisions based on facts and the desire to grow and move our community into the future.

My hope is that the residents of Salmon River, Murray Siding, Harmony, and Camden will be safe, healthy, have opportunity, be sustainable, and have access to the most advanced technology. Because it's been too long that people and communities have been left behind due to a larger focus on more urban areas.

Final thought, let's talk about diversity and how to increase it in the community. Let's start by having gender parity in council. Let's start by voting for a woman who is engaged and concerned and who represents 50% of the electorate. Let's start by engaging with each other and sharing ideas. It can't all come from one person, it has to come from everyone. I would just be the voice that projects them.

Colleen Doucette, B.A. is a candidate for council in Colchester District 5.



ELECT Heather Boyd District 2

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Authorized by the official agent for Heather Boyd



Christine Blair Colchester needs another four years of proven leadership.

Re-elect Christine Blair as Mayor

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