

**2020 Tim Johnson - 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?



**Tim Johnson**

On one view, with the current uncertainty around Covid-19, and our recent 'unbalanced access experience' to online learning for students across the County, I would focus on building infrastructure so every student in every community/school in Colchester County has access to quality online education. On a 'local development view', we should focus on 'quality of life' issues like trails, parks, senior's recreational opportunities, and access to day care for working families. From a County view, I think we have been doing just fine with current council developments/re-developments: Fundy Discovery Centre/former Palliser site and its exciting future, Debert Air Industrial Park, Solid Waste Resource Management and Recycling, Materials Recovery Facility, and being Fiscally Responsible.

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

At the moment? Covid-19 and education/student access for quality online education, flood control, sewer and water, improved roads, recreation programs, select a site for a new fire hall in the future.

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

In my opinion, no they should not. The overall response is that all residents of Nova Scotia deserve good roads. That is a question for Council to debate.

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

One of the futures of our county, and we have several, is our Debert Airport and Business Park. Whether it be international refueling stops versus our local flying club, the airport has a future and we should ensure it has the infrastructure to maintain it. One idea would be to approach a helicopter company to use it as a home base. As for the Business Park, we need to keep marketing the opportunities for business and keep the costs down for existing business. As a small business owner, I understand the need for security of current and future operational costs, so promotion, attraction and establishment are tied to cost!

**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 market Elmsdale and local communities enjoy as the area is closer to Halifax for commuters. What we need to do is attract non-commuters to relocate here, spend their money here, and be part of the wonderful cultural and socio-economic landscape we have in Colchester County. We are seeing an exceptional growth in house and rental construction in our local area, and we need to ensure that trend continues.

**2020 Edwin MacQuarrie - Candidate District 8**

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?



**Edwin MacQuarrie**

In order for each resident to have access to high-speed internet, the county should allocate additional tax money, if required, to support the companies involved with installing this service.

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

Taxes are the most important issue. A number of citizens are having difficulty financially due to Covid 19; the municipality should strive to keep taxes the same or reduce them.



Jack Brownell from Halifax decided to enjoy a little flyfishing at Newville Lake, while his wife went riding at Spirit Reins Ranch in Parrsboro. Hopefully both enjoyed their day. (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)

**Big Moon Canada Joins FORCE**

The province used an independent and competitive process to fill the vacant berth at the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) in Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy. Big-Moon Canada Corporation (Big-Moon) has been selected by the independent procurement administrator as the successful applicant to fill berth D at the centre. As part of the agreement, the company will also remove the Cape Sharp turbine.

With authority from the minister, the procurement administrator has granted the

company a Marine Renewable-Electricity licence and a power purchase agreement. The company has provided a security deposit of \$4.5 million in relation to their commitment to the retrieval of the Cape Sharp turbine.

The Cape Sharp turbine is non-operational and does not present a risk to marine life or the environment. Big Moon Canada must submit and have a retrieval plan approved by the province and has until Dec. 31, 2024 to raise the turbine.

**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?**

That is the catch 22 question! There is really no way of deciding who will come here, what their goals are, or what would attract new residents, for example, a person from anywhere to locate here and start a business. The best we can do is to support our local immigration groups, church sponsors, local service clubs, and other community-based/government sponsored agencies in their work on immigration.

**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?**

Quite simply, build on what we have in these modern facilities, our location as the HUB, and supporting initiatives like the Truro Downtown Partnership, and more... Linking websites, which is being done, and co-promoting what we have to offer through our community partners is a key to shared future growth and development. In addition to our modern facilities we have a rail link, highway links, and are just 40 minutes from an international airport. All critical points that require us to govern in ensuring these assets are maintained and serve us well.

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

As you can see from my campaign logo 'Caring for Our Community and County', my focus will be on small things in terms of service to our District and taxpayers, and on big things in terms of projects requiring significant investments across the District and County.

**What is most needed in your district?**

Know what? I live in a great district. We have a great county that offers any kind of experience one would seek. Nature, trails - summer and winter, skiing - downhill and cross-country, pony clubs, golf courses, swimming pools, ice rinks, curling clubs, atv & snowmobile clubs, running and bicycling groups, card clubs, post-secondary education, schools, rural communities, hospitals and more... We have lots to celebrate.

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

I have been a life-long resident of Salmon River and have seen our local area grow in significant ways over my years. I have been a lifelong volunteer, a volunteer firefighter and past chief, a national referee, a business owner, and community supporter. From my experiences I have learned that teamwork works best... anyone can lead, and anyone can follow! My goal on Council is to transfer my years into a 'going forward' attitude and progressive agenda, versus 'I supported...'

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

No, I don't think taxpayers should contribute 25%-50% of repaving or rebuilding J-class roads. The provincial government should cover this cost.

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

It would depend on the projected return on investment as to whether or not this should rank in the top three priorities.

**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, it would be good to encourage private development to make more subdivisions in Colchester. This would create more local jobs and increase the tax base.

**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?**

It is a high priority to market Colchester as a desirable place to live and attract new business or the purchase of an existing business. It is also important to make sure the existing residents and businesses of Colchester are supported as well.

**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 centers and almost one million consumers. What does the municipality need to focus on to be the fastest growing municipality in the province?**

Encouraging people to buy local and supporting the businesses in our municipality will help our community grow. We need more jobs to support families.

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

Open communication is the foundation of governance. Talking to residents to help them with any concerns and following up with important information. I believe being available and approachable will serve the residents of Colchester.

**What is most needed in your district?**

Equal access to high speed internet and more local jobs with a livable wage are needed most in Colchester.

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

I have been involved in politics for forty years. I have lived here my whole life, so I can provide insight to the needs of the community. In my professional career, I have travelled and worked across the country extensively. I have seen how other communities operate.

**2020 Lisa Patton - Candidate District 8**

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?



**Lisa Patton**

I believe Colchester County should be prepared to provide the necessary infrastructure (ie. tech incubator labs) to develop community driven education and mentorship to encourage and support new tech start up and potential entrepreneurs. Municipal staff and community leaders could potentially spearhead this type of project because there are a multitude of Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Elon Musk's out there in the world yet to be found. The question is, are we going to look for them in Colchester county or let someone else in their community discover the next tech giant?

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

The most important issue for District 8 is watching expenditures at the county level to make sure that businesses and residents of District 8 do not pay higher property taxes at a time when many businesses are suffering and therefore laying off employees which are residents of District 8.

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

No, I do not feel taxpayers on J-class roads should be asked to contribute 25-50% of repaving or rebuilding costs. J-Class roads are owned by the province, and fall under a cost-sharing agreement between the Nova Scotia Department of Infrastructure & Renewal and municipalities.

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

Yes, I believe Colchester Municipal Council should make infrastructure investment in Debert Airport and Debert Business Park among its top three priorities. Debert is already a regional distribution center for Sobeys, Home Hardware, Tim Hortons etc., so it only makes sense to build on that by attracting more of those types of businesses thru providing improved infrastructure and airport services.

**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, Colchester County should encourage new or existing sub-division developments to attract new residents because this county has so much to offer including a variety of recreational centers, world class hospital and schools, vibrant downtown core without the big city taxes etc.

**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?**

High priority is the level of priority that should be placed on marketing the county. Colchester County has a country urban feel with bigger center amenities, a much more favorable tax rate on small business.

**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?**

Colchester County is the hub of Nova Scotia and within close proximity to Halifax Harbor therefore, we should be promoting our available resources, our lifestyle and of course our lower tax rates to attract new residents and businesses.

We as a municipality should be building off the successes of businesses such as Kohltech Windows and Doors, ThermoCell etc., in terms of export. With a geographical location to be able to easily move products and services around Atlanta Canada and beyond, Colchester is in an ideal position to become the fastest growing municipality in Nova Scotia.

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

Collaboration with fellow councilors is key to obtaining important things in any district.

**What is most needed in your district?**

District 8 needs stronger employment opportunities with greater wages to help build our community.

Still in the midst of a global pandemic, all levels of government need to prepare for the aftermath we will be facing as a result. Our residents are counting on elected officials to keep employment and fiscal responsibility as top priorities, therefore it would be our job to promote an environment that supports and encourages business, tourism and development.

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

I pride myself in being fully engaged in my community. I have proven leadership skills and am motivated to work hard for the betterment of this area. My work background with a full understanding of all levels of government and community volunteer experience will be assets for me as a councillor.



**Peter McCracken**  
District 11

For information  
and assistance

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