

Dump, recreation, bypass, taxes dominate debate

By MARK PAVILONS
Editor

The future of waste disposal, the controversial Bolton bypass, local property taxes and recreational needs provided the fodder for discussion for Wards 3/4 candidates at the debate sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Bolton Oct. 25.

Area Race

Current councillor Nick deBoer said he's spent the last three years meeting with constituents, discussing the issues and finding solutions. He was pleased to support and bring Project Lifesaver to the area - a combined effort with the OPP to monitor and help locate missing persons. The unique program will have seven individuals outfitted with monitors by Christmas. He also praised the efforts of the Town and Albion and Bolton Agricultural Society to provide the Bolton Wanderers with mini-soccer fields at the fairgrounds.

DeBoer said he's also been concerned with road safety, traffic and assisting farmers with viable sources of income. He's looking forward to the new Catholic high school planned for the north hill, noting there's a real need for a grocery store to service those residents.

In Don McNeil's maiden speech, he urged residents to get out and vote, pointing out that voter turnout has been in a "death spiral" for decades. He asked voters to select a candidate with vision, and ask themselves

whether they want the "same old, same old," or whether they want change. He said it would be a real honour to serve the Town of Caledon for the next four years.

Questions

Questions from the audience were scarce, to the point where moderator George denHaan had to come with some of his own.

When asked whether they would support a public/private partnership for transit, deBoer said he understands youth concerns and that's why he supported the construction of the skateboard park and addition to the Wellness Centre. With regards to transit, he'd like to see what the costs are to the community and he would support a more regional, GTA-wide initiative. However, he would be willing to look at any proposal.

McNeil said he would consider any proposal put on the table, and made it clear he didn't want the "taxpayers scorched." The Town can reach out to youth more often than it does, he

observed. When asked about the cost of the mini-soccer fields donated by the agricultural society, deBoer said it's shared with the Town, who will supply an estimated \$70,000 worth of landscaping, etc. There is still a very real need for a 100-acre property for meet the long-term recreational needs in Caledon.

McNeil said he supports the work being done by the volunteer-driven Bolton Wanderers and he would support their needs.

DeBoer said they've already begun talks with the separate school board to look at land near the new high school on the north hill.

When asked about the progress of the BAR and bypass, deBoer said land acquisition will be done by Christmas on the west side and Hydro is on board. Approvals are now in place for the northern leg and engineering work will begin soon.

Both deBoer and McNeil said they wanted Palgrave protected from any potential increase in truck traffic.

When asked about the

area's growth, deBoer said he supports slow, controlled growth. He observed the province has limited growth in the area with the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine plans. Nothing will move very quickly over the next four years, he observed, adding council will have to create a game plan and consult with the public in a long-term growth strategy.

McNeil said there has always been two camps on the issue of growth and councillors need to look at the long-term effects and examine the impact of provincial policies.

When asked to outline their top priorities, McNeil said his biggest concern is voter apathy and he again urged them to exercise this privilege. Beyond election day, he will sit down with ratepayers to collect their input.

DeBoer said he would like to ensure the economic viability of the area's farmers and this requires more options in the Greenbelt, ORM and NEC jurisdictions. He would also like to see services being filled in around Bolton, including some retail on the north hill, pointing out a recent retail study indicated the need for a store on the north hill. The community at large deserves to be served and he whole-heartedly supports such a plan.

McNeil said this issue needs to be discussed and he

also said the Town needs a stronger voice at the Ontario Municipal Board.

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Toronto Star Endorses Mayor Morrison FOR RE-ELECTION

"Caledon: Incumbent Marolyn Morrison is justifiably proud of her term as mayor and deserves re-election. She helped sooth a fractious council, fixed the debt and improved recreational opportunities in Caledon" (Toronto Star 06/11/06).

I am delighted to listen to resident after resident tell me that they have seen a positive change towards a more vibrant and constructive community culture in Caledon over the past term of office.

Community events are well attended and celebratory. People are coming out to have fun together. Volunteerism is very healthy and there are more opportunities than ever for people to get involved in organizations where they can take pride in being a part of Caledon. The Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) has been a wonderful success. The Youth are our future and the MYC will continue to ensure that they have a voice in our community.

I see Caledon's vibrant community as a recipe that has many variations on the themes of health, vitality, inclusiveness and a passion for people. In this past term of Caledon Council, there has been a new and fresh dialogue about what our community means to all of us. As your Mayor, I wanted you to see the difference of a united Council working together for common goals. As such, I created the concept for the Caledon Community Work Plan and together with Council we delivered on the issues that we heard first hand, knocking on your doors during the last campaign. Every success in Caledon happens because caring people take up the cause. Every single one of us is a part of Caledon's community chemistry.

When re-elected as your Mayor, I promise to continue an open and honest dialogue with you so that all of our energy and ideas can be a recipe for continued success. We all want to be part of a community that is safe, caring and inclusive. We want Caledon to thrive and grow responsibly so that new jobs and new infrastructure come to our Town. We all want to preserve our heritage, protect our agricultural industry and roots, and celebrate being a "green" community.

We want to build together on Caledon's community chemistry. I ask for your vote to continue to lead this important effort on November 13.

Marolyn Morrison

www.marolynmorrisonmayor.ca

(Paid for by the Campaign to Re-elect Marolyn Morrison as Mayor)




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