

**Reliable, Experienced, Practical**  
**Ready to work for you as your REP**

**Vote: DAVID MOORE for Mayor** 

**BACKGROUND & BELIEFS**

With family roots that extend from the time when McKellar Township was first opened up in the 1860s and with a proven leadership record of over 25 years in local municipal politics during which time many firsts came to fruition, I believe that it is necessary for ratepayers to rediscover what works best to achieve co-operation and the realization of shared goals. Experience gained in the municipal field combined with organizational skills honed during thirty plus years in the educational field, at least seven of which were spent as Head of Department, will help to re-establish the stability that is necessary to co-ordinate a multi-million-dollar corporation with a citizen centric approach.

Corporate memory is not a bonus; rather, it is an essential ingredient in the proper governance of any municipal organization. Data must not only be stored correctly and completely, but it also must be readily retrievable to ensure that an historical perspective can be utilized prior to any decision being made. Without a complete, accessible database, the municipality must rely on the veracity of the memories of those who experienced the decisions in actual time. Unfortunately, when staff are subjected to a revolving door policy, it is next to impossible for Council to reference the necessary local experience.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE MUNICIPAL FIELD**

With a knowledge gained over a cumulative work experience in excess of seventy-five years, accumulated by fewer than five people in executive positions, combined with an experienced Council, many accomplishments were achieved. Under the watchful eye of the residents, and often with their personal involvement, some of the municipal firsts, in no particular order, included: (i) a visionary Official Plan and its subsequent reviews and amendments; (ii) an implementing Zoning By-law and its updates; (iii) membership in two local area planning boards; (iv) approval of at least six large subdivisions with the more recent requiring, among other things, an asphalt surface; (v) construction and/or replacement of at least five main bridges; (vi)

construction of building infrastructure (incl. community centre, library, post office, heritage room, youth room, rink/arena, fire station #2, public works facility with sand/salt shed); (vii) development of parkland (incl. purchase and refurbishment of Minerva Park, Southpark ballfield, playground equipment at four beach areas, dockage, construction of Balsam Wilderness Trail); (viii) conversion of the landfill site to a transfer station (incl. compactors and containers for recycling); (ix) any number of procedural documents that are still in effect today (incl. the first vote-by-mail alternative in municipal elections); (x) creation of a Road Study that resulted in, among other outcomes, winter maintenance provided for all municipally owned un-assumed roads; (xi) formation of new committees, some of which are still in operation (incl. library, historical, economic development).

The many accomplishments of the past serve as the foundation upon which our community can continue to grow and develop. There will always be future problems to solve, but with new sources of information and advice upon which to draw those problems may also be resolved. An improved more user-friendly Township website might serve as a good beginning point. Key components necessary for any Council to truly represent the wishes of its ratepayers include openness and honesty, transparency and accountability. Members must negotiate and co-operate with each other, with knowledgeable staff and with the public to achieve those goals which are desirable and affordable for all residents.

## **CONCERNS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE**

Some of the voiced present and future concerns, not necessarily in any particular order, that I intend to take to the Council table include:

- (a) **Staffing** - Present staff must be trained and retained and be prepared to serve the residents of the Township for an extended period of time. They should want to live and work in McKellar. A sense of continuity can then be established so that any future change in staffing will not be as chaotic as that experienced in the immediate past. It must also be emphasized that staff are answerable to all of Council, not to any individual or minority group of Council members. To that end, the Heads of Departments should regularly report to Council at open Council meetings so that everyone is aware of not only what they have accomplished but also what their future goals might entail. Direction may then be suggested by the whole of Council, not just particular individuals. More specifically, the departments of By-law

enforcement, Deputy Clerk and Planning should be reviewed with the goal in mind of employing more dedicated staff to deal with the ever-increasing workload. Perhaps some form of succession planning should appear on future agendas.

(b) **Planning** – As the planning department becomes increasingly complex, for a number of reasons, it is imperative that a professional planner familiar with our area be employed, either as full time or on a part-time contract. With the repeal of Official Plan Amendment No. 9 third reading and the repeal of Zoning By-law No. 2019-23 third reading, our two main planning documents (O.P. consolidated up to and including OPA #8; ZBL 95-12, as amended) are now somewhat outdated as we enter 2023. Additionally, the Parry Sound Area Planning Board, of which our Township is a member, is experiencing some change with the recent departure of the Town of Parry Sound and with the threat of Carling Township also leaving. Seguin and the Archipelago each has its own planning board so if everything plays out that would leave McKellar, McDougall and Whitestone left to form the newly constituted planning board with its Secretary in common. Presently, the long-time Planner for the Township of McKellar has departed under some circumstances which have not been made entirely clear to the residents. The present Planner resource being employed is also unclear. It is imperative that these issues be resolved sooner rather than later so that proposed development (incl. consents, adjustments, etc.), any subsequent appeals and interaction with Municipal Affairs can be dealt with in a reasonable timeframe.

(c) **Short Term Rentals (STRs)** – At time of writing, an ad-hoc committee has been established to research this complicated and somewhat controversial subject. This committee should continue its deliberations going forward, but a time limit should be established so that its findings can be presented to the public. Council then must enter the debate, completing any further research as may be necessary such as opening communication with other municipalities and their By-law Enforcement personnel to discover any effective approaches that have been utilized. Whitestone has recently amended its planning documents to better reflect their approach with STRs. It seems unfortunate that, as in many situations in life, it takes only a few ‘bad apples’ to necessitate more stringent regulations for all. However, any environmental and noise concerns, among others, must be considered in all situations. Solutions have

to be found. Any licensing system and related inspections that may be implemented after due deliberation would undoubtedly necessitate an increase in By-law enforcement personnel. And, for those who may have lived through the experience, let's not forget who cast the deciding vote against the proposed fractional ownership development project over a decade ago. Your collective voice was heard. The 'silent majority' remained silent.

(d) **Parry Sound Area Recreational and Cultural Centre** – I would argue that there are many layers to the issue of the Township of McKellar's participation in this proposed venture. The projected costs are probably underestimated in today's market and therefore the project should be downsized, not enlarged as the fundraising committee has suggested (6 lanes instead of 4). The funding formula should not have been calculated by the steering committee, composed of area unelected, not-accountable-to-the-public, CAOs. The funding formula must be revisited and I would present to Council that my suggestion of over a decade ago, when the pool debate was surfacing at that time, should be considered whereby the host municipality (determined by location) would be responsible for 50% of the costs and the remaining municipalities would be assessed based on the traditional funding formula of 1/3 households, 1/3 population and 1/3 assessment. This would make McKellar's contribution somewhere in the range of 4½ - 5%. Council should discuss whether or not the suggestion should be put forward that the Joint MSB agreement could be rewritten, if indeed there is a need for one, to better reflect the individual municipalities' responsibilities for this and potential future projects on this site. The voting formula should reflect one municipality, one vote, not the weighting formula which now exists. The pool project, as presently constituted, does not appear to be sustainable for some, perhaps for all, of the partner municipalities involved going forward. However, that is not to say that Parry Sound and the surrounding areas should not have a pool facility. The possibility that it will be a stand-alone facility and not be built in conjunction with perhaps a new school, presently in the planning process, continues to be open for discussion. These are some of the ideas I would take to the Council table for open debate.

(e) **Roads Policy** – In the past, I penned a comprehensive Roads Policy for the Township of McKellar which was often referenced by staff. Part of the policy was codified when the Council of the day decided to purchase a new five-ton

truck to help enable the Township provide winter maintenance on all municipally owned un-assumed roads on a yearly, reviewable basis providing certain criteria had been satisfied. To the best of my knowledge, a revised form of this original proposal is still in effect today. Any existing Roads Policy should be reviewed and updated to ensure that all residents are being treated in a fair and equitable manner. The Asset Management Plan and the Roads Review that were prepared must be reviewed in unison on a regular basis and referenced to assist in long range planning for recording inventory and replacing assets when necessary. Long term financial planning must make use of these documents as well so that any unpleasant surprises may be minimized. Resurfacing of Township roads should remain a priority as budgets allow.

(f) **Environmental Policy** – The Township should continue to fund and to accept the help provided by the MLCA to do water testing. More recently, an ad-hoc committee, the Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee, was given permanent committee status in an advisory role. Members of the committee are presently providing excellent educational material and expertise for the residents of the Township and should continue to do so. They should also be commended for leading by example with their Zoom link to their meetings and workshops. As has been noted many times, the maintenance of the quality of the Township’s water sources, especially Lake Manitouwabing, is paramount for our collective future survival.

(g) **Boat ramps** – The Township should provide regular inspections of all municipally owned boat launch areas and inform Council and the public, in a timely manner, if repairs must be implemented for safety and liability purposes. The lack of communication that resulted in the closure of the boat launch area on Lakeshore Road without any prior notice must not be repeated unless a dire emergency situation exists. Due diligence should help ensure that any safety concerns are kept in check. The particular concerns raised about the Lakeshore Road boat launch area must be further investigated and, with the advice of a professional engineer, viable improvements can be considered.

(h) **Miscellaneous** – The newly elected Council may have to contend with some area wide initiatives such as the sale of Belvedere Heights Home for the Aged and the construction of a new ‘campus of care’ in association with Lakeland

Long Term Care and the West Parry Sound Health Centre. I was part of the negotiations and discussions when the life-lease apartments were added to the Belvedere Heights site and when the new health centre was constructed and financial contributions from the municipalities were determined. I was also on the working committee and sat as a member on both the former Welfare Board and the later District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB). The governance model that I proposed is still largely in effect with approximately 15 board members representing the Parry Sound District. Other area-wide projects and associated boards on which I have sat include the Parry Sound Area Planning Board, Parry Sound Area Information Centre, Parry Sound Area Waste Management Board, Parry Sound District Land Division Committee and the Parry Sound Area Museum Board, among others.

It may be noted that the term ‘area’ has been applied extensively when titles for joint municipal boards and committees have been formed. The term ‘regional’, used quite commonly in southern Ontario, suggests a form of organization against which the Township of McKellar has voted regularly when the issue resurfaces. We have proven time and again that effective and efficient area co-operation is possible without having to resort to a form of regional government or amalgamation. The threat is ever present but, to date, no data has been provided that demonstrates any benefits to our single-tier municipality.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

It is imperative that the electorate understand that any promises made by candidates on the campaign trail may not necessarily result in promises kept. Council (composed of a Mayor and four Councillors) decisions are enacted by a majority vote of a quorum of Council who are in attendance at any particular meeting and who are eligible to vote (no declared conflict of interest). One of the first lessons of good government that Council members must understand is that they are working for all of the residents of the Township. They must understand that any monies being spent come from the public purse and that good financial planning is essential. Proposed projects must not only be sensible and necessary but they also must be affordable. There is sometimes the tendency for elected representatives to spend with impunity because, even though they are individually contributing to the overall

costs, the municipal pockets may appear relatively deep. Proposed ‘free rides’ are often suspect. The recent seven percent increase in taxes for 2022 is almost unprecedented and should not serve as a benchmark moving forward. Approximately 50% of the budget is earmarked for other levels of government and organizations, leaving only 50% for local use. The use of debentures, hitherto almost unheard of in the history of the Township because sound financial planning (incl. the use of reserves) was the rule of thumb, should be avoided, unless an emergency situation arises, so that a line item of principal and associated interest is not added to the annual budget.

Good working relationships with not only those who sit at the Council table but also with staff, with other municipalities, with senior levels of government and with the residents who have chosen McKellar as their place of residence is essential for any municipality to move forward with a sense of industry, integrity and pride. With approximately 70% of McKellar’s population made up of ‘seasonal’ (for want of a better term) residents, it is essential that they have ready access to the government that represents them. Increased connectivity for our area should also be a high priority during this term of Council. One positive that has arisen primarily because of the pandemic is the emergence of an audio/visual linkage from afar. The technology has existed for a long period of time but only recently has Zoom and YouTube been employed by a majority of municipalities, boards and committees within the area. The new technology installed in the Community Centre should be improved and utilized to its fullest potential so that transparency and accountability can be witnessed ‘in person’ moving forward. Public participation is an essential component of any government that is answerable to its residents.

With some certainty that issues other than those mentioned here will arise among the residents in the days prior to the election and throughout the upcoming four-year term, I am always willing to speak with you about any of your concerns. I can be reached by telephone (705-389-3076), email ([moored5515@outlook.com](mailto:moored5515@outlook.com)) or in-person. More specific information about the 2022 election may be found on the Township’s website ([Elections - Township of McKellar](#)) or by contacting the Municipal office at (705-389-2842).

Yours in Good Governance for a Better Tomorrow, I ask for your vote of Confidence

*David Moore*

IN THE WORDS OF THAT WELL-KNOWN PHILOSOPHER, RED GREEN, ‘REMEMBER,...WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.’