

Hello again to our ratepayers of McKellar Township.

If elected I will recommend to my fellow Council members that we not only plan financially long and short-term, but we especially try to forecast all expenditures in our four-year term of Council. I believe we can then accomplish some necessary projects and goals within our term.

Here are three project ideas I will bring forward to Council for consideration. I believe the first two to be necessary and the third is to improve our resident's quality of life.

One four-year goal should be the asphaltting of Centre Road and Hurdville Road. The present tar and chip like finish is at the end of its life on most sections and all sections of these two roads will be due for re-surfacing with-in the four years. I will recommend that the sleeves get rolled up and we get these roads asphaltted to remain in good condition for a couple decades.

A second four- year plan should be an addition to the public works garage.

Our Director of Public of Works has reported to Council different options to house our equipment into the future. I am in favour of the most economical option of adding to the existing public works garage. Council has started a reserve account for this project. I believe this project can be completed and paid for in the four-year financial plan. Other options such as re-building in another location would cost in excess of three million dollars. (That's a before covid estimate). Roll up the sleeves.

A third four-year plan could be to improve our Community Centre grounds.

A couple of years ago McKellar Township purchased more property adjacent to the Community Centre grounds next to the covered rink. Council can come up with a plan. I would recommend more parking (already started) to compliment the McKellar Market at Minerva Park. Move the ball diamond to the new property beside the covered rink. Bleachers can be located under the rink roof overhang and all sorts of possibilities can open-up. I would also suggest a one-kilometer walking/fitness trail around the perimeter of the grounds. This will in compass the ball diamond, hundreds of feet of shoreline scenery, fitness and picnic locations, public beach, playground, washrooms and the Community Centre. We have a growing population and this trail can get walkers and children on bikes to a safe and fun location. This project can be accomplished physically and financially in the four year- term. Yes, roll up the sleeves again.

These three above projects should be completed and paid for in the four- year term.

Personally, I am not a fan of debenture and borrowing of funds due to the fact that interest charges do exist. But this option did come to the table twice in the last term and I was in favour of both.

The first was a new fire truck financed over five years. Good move, the same truck would now be more expensive and the firetruck will be paid off in this coming term.

The second financing decision I was in favour of, was McKellar contributing our share of the capital cost for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Culture Centre (Pool). McKellar Council has agreed to debenture McKellar's \$775,000 total capital costs over 10 years to fund our portion of \$32 million dollar project.

With these two financial obligations already on the books, I believe that the new Council should attempt to go forward with a four-year financial plan.

I look toward McKellar's financing similar to my own. Yes, I did borrow funds for some vehicles but now build a reserve for future purchases to avoid interest charges. I also had to take-out long-term mortgages to purchase my first couple homes. But my long-term goal was always to be debt free. This way if something comes up that should be purchased, I'm in a great financial position to do so.

For McKellar- A good balance of keeping taxes affordable while providing a very good standard of roads and facilities.

Staffing; The last few years have had their challenges as far as staffing in our municipal office. But I am thrilled that we have acquired an additional experienced staff member, joining the team in September. This should bring the office to a full complement for the first time in years. We also have a new Fire Chief that I feel very confident will bring great things to our fire services.

In Short

Environment Committee – I support the continuation of this volunteer committee as they are doing wonderful things, such as educating residents to preserve our lakes and shorelines.

Short-term rental Committee- I support this committee to bring forward recommendations on how to best deal with annoying short-term rental locations.

Internet Connections – I support the continuation of looking for better solutions for McKellar.

McKellar Library – Our volunteers and staff continue to do an outstanding job. Very nice facility and lots of new ideas for community involvement.

McKellar Market – I support and respect Jan and Rob Gibson's future plans for the Market.

McKellar Recreation Committee – So much going on by great volunteers, we will keep going!

McKellar 150 Committee – 2023 is McKellar's 150th birthday, wonderful things are going to happen next year, thanks to some more great volunteers.

Well, that's all I have for now, but you are certainly welcome to contact me:

mhaskim@hotmail.com or 705 774 0750.

I could enlighten you with my involvement in past accomplishments in our community over the past few decades, but you may not care. Like you, I prefer to focus on the present and the future!

Morley Haskim for Councilor