

## Vote NICK RYELAND

### for Councillor of McKellar Township

My McKellar roots:

My family has owned property in McKellar for 80 years (since 1940s), my wife, Judy and I have lived here full time since 2015, Family members living in McKellar include: Our son and daughter in law, 2 grandkids who go to school locally, my sister and her husband, and many cousins who own neighbouring properties. We also have many family members in nearby West Parry Sound townships.

We care about community because we live here, we all need a community that is inclusive, inviting and offers opportunities for all to live and grow, especially our kids and most importantly our grandkids who need bright and engaging local opportunities

#### I GET THINGS DONE

I worked for a major Canadian Bank for 40+ years in more than 30+ roles, 12+ years at Director level. I led multi-country teams from diverse cultures, skills and languages to deliver beneficial changes that improved customer service, reduced wait and turnaround times, and improved employee engagement and satisfaction.

My particular focus continues to be to improve effectiveness, eliminate waste, reduce costs, increase revenues. I have long been an organizational leader, a consensus builder, calm, open minded, and inclusive. Following a professional development process known as strength finders I discovered that Ideation is a key strength of mine. Ideation is catalytic because it comes up with creative ways to solve problems that otherwise seemed impossible. I believe we can and must resolve divisive passions, find common ground, work together for the benefit of all our residents

My interests include Volunteering for local area non profits and charities eg Harvest Share food bank, Camp Koinonia, engagements with Rotary Club, Park To Park Trail Association, & Parry Sound District ATV club, I was excited to participate in 2019 McKellar Action Plan meetings which continue to offer real insight into local concerns, and more importantly into definitive actions to move forward and get things done!

My hobbies include boating, swimming, exploring, bicycle riding, hiking, walking, ATVing.

Based on much work completed by colleagues including previous councils, ad hoc committees, and staff, in my 10 months on council I have actively pursued ongoing enhancements of the township roads policy including meeting with a number of local road association leaders and members to seek their input, feedback and insight

I have worked extensively to develop a comprehensive policy that is fair and equitable to local owners and residents, which will quickly facilitate very cost efficient local road improvements and appropriate winter and summer maintenance, improve safety and enabling 911/emergency vehicle access. Working with the 2021 Roads Needs Study documents prepared by the township civic engineering consultants I have identified tangible steps and a well-defined path to township road assumption where mutually desired.

#### Council roles

I was appointed to council in Oct 2021, and was a previous volunteer member of Roads Ad Hoc Committee. I am a present member of Roads Committee, with particular interest in extending safety and fairness policies needed to upgrade many local municipally owned assumed "cottage" roads to ensure equitable access, including year round road maintenance to full time residents, and enable emergency 911 access

#### My Platform/Position

I share the goals of our McKellar Together Team as documented on our McKellar-Together.ca website

In particular after 10 months in a council role I see urgent needs to improve township infrastructure to meet current business standards eg up to date fast and reliable internet, functional online meetings, agendas and notifications, online document availability. We need to Introduce modern communication standards and practices and people management practices. To do so we must Refresh/Update the 2019 Service Delivery review, including number and type of staff, comparison to other local townships, metrics, examine opportunities for shared services especially if they lead to covering gaps in services not presently available in our township

We need professional meetings, email addresses for council, calendar invites for meetings including public notification via email or other electronic communication methods, all attachments updated as needed for retention and future reference, and maintaining a full trail of supporting rationale

#### My Message

McKellar is a great place to live, it's beautiful and unique. We need to build on our heritage and environment and continue to improve life for all our residents. I am encouraged and humbled by the number of people from McKellar who have asked if I am running (I am!!!), especially those whom I have not personally met but yet know about me. I believe that my council role is to understand and represent the best interests of our community, to gather the facts, analyze options and to move us forward..

#### Progressive Financial Management

Recently council experienced severe delays in approving our 2022 budgets due to economic factors like inflation and pandemic related MPAC property valuation stagnation. Like my colleagues on the

McKellar-Together team I believe we need to strongly consider all aspects of the township financial plans and evaluate options like debenture financing to stabilize annual budget increases. Infrastructure Ontario fixed low interest loans can save us money over time while delivering much needed services and programs now. We need professional plans to integrate our asset management plans (including roads, bridges, culverts and township properties and equipment) into short and longer term financial plans. All this will place us on a solid footing to manage our costs and deliver vital services

After many years of stagnant growth and even declining population, the 2021 census reports a 27% increase in full-time residents since 2016. This is a MAJOR shift for McKellar and represents the opportunities and needs of our community. Seniors continue to be our largest growth 'industry'. The over 55 age group now represents 64% of our neighbours. Our population base is looking for THINGS TO DO and PLACES TO GO and SERVICES WE NEED within our community.

Our 2019 Action Plan captured our citizens' ideas for active lifestyles, recreation activities and amenities: such as restaurant, gas station, day care, bike rest stop and many others. While some of these requests have been initiated, many have been stalled.

Creating jobs to retain young families in McKellar is key to future sustainability and the support needed to keep our seniors healthy at home. There are already some exciting beginnings to the "farm to fork" phenomenon. Agri-tourism is at the heart of a rural sustainability strategy and provides more options for local job creation and to shop local while respecting the heritage and environment of a rural community. As we 'age in place' we must find ways to provide better support for in-home services. 'Aging in place' has also rapidly increased full-time residents on seasonal roads, which can be challenging for emergency response and year-round road safety. The intent of the Roads policy, must not be undermined. I fully support the preservation of the road policy: safety, access, and fairness, which was recommended by our community volunteers on the Roads Ad-Hoc committee.

### Protect Our Heritage

Protect our lakes, land and air. The work of our volunteer Environment Committee is impressive and vital to safeguarding our water quality, water safety, shoreline and the preservation and tranquility of our outdoor life – what legacy will we leave for the next generation? The lakes and fields are the reasons that many of us are here. We must make all efforts to ensure our lakes are responsibly protected. Without clean and safe lakes our property values and our whole existence here is severely threatened. Our Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee (LSEC) plays a key role in ensuring the viability of local environment.

Of particular value I encourage all local residents to watch the Videos provided by the LSEC - link provided below:

<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTubeVideos2305843009327660014.pdf>

We should all review the MLCA Shoreline Restoration Project

The MLCA has assembled a crack crew of experts to assist property owners with Shoreline Restoration Projects. Upon request, they will bring our crew of tree experts, landscape architects and gardeners to your property to help you with problems related to maintaining or creating a healthy shoreline.

Healthy Shorelines have the benefits of preventing erosion, capturing phosphorus and keeping it out of the water, providing a beautiful landscape and inviting joyful wildlife and birds to your property. Property owners were pleasantly pleased to find out how to fix some of their problems. In days, they had implemented a fix for the erosion that cost almost nothing. Details of this first project will soon be available on the MLCA Facebook page - stay tuned. If you would like them to visit your property, send an email to Steve - admin@mlca.ca

Local Trails

I believe that we should develop and extend local multi use trails, for walking, hiking, bicycling, ATVing, cross country skiing, sledding. Ideally this would connect McKellar trails to those in neighbouring townships potentially using unopened road allowances/concessions.

Vote Nick RYELAND for Council