

Rob Rouse from Website



## About Me



### ***A deep connection to the area:***

Both sides of my family were some of the original pioneers in this area. The Adams side of my family homesteaded in the mid 1880's near Little Cove where my Aunt and Uncle still have the family farm today, and near Driftwood Cove at a place now known as Smith's Gully. The Rouse side of my family homesteaded near Cape Chin. I'm very

proud of the fact that my family has always been deeply involved in our community, be it municipal council, service clubs, the Fire Department, to mention a few examples. It's gratifying to know that my ancestors had a hand in shaping our community into the wonderful place it is today.

I was born and raised in the village of Lion's Head, and went to Elementary School at Lion's Head Public, Eastnor Central, and BPDS in Lion's Head, (save for a 3 year stretch near Edmonton, Alberta). I even started kindergarten in the Sunday School room of the Lion's Head United Church! I completely understand the value of the unparalleled education experience a child receives from a small, rural public school. After returning from Alberta, we settled in Tobermory. I attended High School at BPDS in Lion's Head, and graduated in 1985.

Since graduation, I have lived and worked in Northern Bruce Peninsula. My involvement in the local Fire Department motivated me to further my education. I recognized the opportunity to further serve my community in an extended public safety role. I obtained my college diploma in Ambulance and Emergency Care With Honors, and I currently work as a Primary Care Paramedic with the County of Bruce at the Tobermory Station. I am currently enrolled in a diploma course in Community Emergency Management. I've been married to my wife Carolynne for almost 25 years, and together we are raising two children in this amazing community we are all proud to call home. Our two children, Natalie and Eric have both attended St. Edmunds Public School, and as of this fall, both will be attending BPDS.

## Experience



Since graduation, I have continued to live and work in Northern Bruce Peninsula. I have worked in the construction industry, tourism industry, public utilities trade work with National Parks, and community paramedicine. Work in these fields, plus the skills I have gained through my work with the Municipal Fire Department provide me with a broad knowledge base which I believe would benefit me in the role as a Municipal Councillor, and bring value to municipal operations as a whole. Below is a brief synopsis of the assets I can offer.

- Employee Supervision both inside and outside a unionized work environment
- Fixed and fleet asset management including short and long term recapitalization planning in both municipal and federal public service
- Service contract initiation, preparation, and administration
- Project management including design, implementation, construction supervision, project completion as well as budgetary development and management
- Capital project development and submission
- Operations and maintenance budget development and implementation
- Visitor risk and overall hazard assessment and mitigation
- Supervisory and management training
- Advanced workplace health and safety training
- Labour/management committee participation
- Emergency management/planning training and experience, including development of several major public safety planning documents for both municipal and federal public service
- Construction, public works and electrical/mechanical trades experience
- Digital mapping development and production/field collection and interpretation of GIS data
- Development and review of inter-agency public safety response agreements
- Significant experience providing adult education in a variety of settings
- Radio telecommunications systems management
- Broad-based public safety skills set

Please follow this link to the Municipal Web Site to read important information regarding when and how to vote: <http://www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/content/election>

## Community Volunteer Experience



The spirit of community service and participation in community politics was instilled in me from a young age. My father was the Chief of the Lion's Head and District Fire Department for many years. His father and older brother before him were Volunteers with the Fire Department as well. My mom's father was involved in municipal politics, he co-founded the Tobermory Chamber of Commerce, and served on various committees and service clubs such as the Bruce Trail Association, and various National and Provincial Park Committees to name just a few.

When I was a young lad, I would lend a helping hand each year to help put on the annual Tobermory United Church Chicken Barbecue. I was active in the Student Council at BPDS, and I joined the St. Edmunds Township Recreation Committee while just a teenager, and was proud to participate of the development of the new Community Center, constructed in 1987, as well as ball diamond improvements.

The community service which to this day gives me the most pride, satisfaction, and sense of accomplishment was my participation in the St. Edmunds Township and Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Departments. I joined St. Edmunds in 1988 as a Probationary Fire Fighter. I retired in 2010 from Northern Bruce Peninsula as an Assistant Deputy Fire Chief and Alternate Community Emergency Management Coordinator, having received the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal. Some of the major accomplishments I coordinated or participated in are:

- The implementation of a medical tiered response program, providing medical response assistance to our partners at Bruce County EMS, Parks Canada, and our many residents and visitors. This included fundraising for, and implementation of firefighter pre-hospital defibrillation. I was the lead Instructor for this program during my tenure.
- The development and implementation of a Ground Search and Rescue team, working cooperatively with our partners at the OPP and Parks Canada. I was the lead Instructor for this program during my tenure. Through my work with the local Fire Department and SARTAC Search Consulting, I have trained Search Team Members and Search Masters from various Bruce and Grey County Fire Departments, Regional Police Services and National Parks staff from around the province. We rapidly became known as a provincial center for excellence in Ground Search and Rescue Training and expertise.
- I participated in the development of or co-authored various emergency response plans, such as the Municipal Emergency Plan, Forest Fire Suppression Plan as well as others.
- Member of the Apparatus Recapitalization Committee which worked to identify current and future fleet and equipment requirements for the Department.
- I represented the Municipality on the overhead team during the planning and implementation of SAREX 2006, which was a multi-agency disaster exercise to test the various agency's response to a maritime disaster aboard the Chi-Cheemaun. It was coordinated by the Canadian Coast Guard, and involved several local, provincial, federal and U.S. agencies, and involved well over 100 personnel on the day of the exercise.
- As the officer in charge of the Tobermory district station, I co-hosted two major Bruce County Fire Schools.
- Part of my responsibilities were to liaise with the various other public safety agencies on a day to day basis during emergency response incidents and training exercises.
- I participated in various community outreach programs with the department including fire prevention, hotel motel inspection and children's programming with Lost in the Woods and similar programs for local schools, Beavers and Cubs

groups, Outers and the annual Footprints Environmental Conference.

My tenure with the Fire Department allowed me to work closely with both the municipal office, and the various municipal departments, giving me beneficial insight and experience with day to day municipal operations, budget development and implementation, and community disaster preparedness.

I was a long time member and president of the Tobermory Firefighter's Association, which both promoted the fire service in the community, and also undertook major fundraising efforts throughout the years. This provided funding for many community projects, including major equipment purchases for the department to augment municipal funding; school, and daycare project contributions; Muscular Dystrophy, Kidney Foundation, and Heart and Stroke Foundation contributions; and Project Maple Leaf, which provided assistance funding to families of fallen public safety officers from the September 11th terrorist attacks.

I am a past member of the St Edmunds School and Community Council which is the liason body between the community and the Bluewater School Board. I am a present member of the PACE committee, or Peninsula Action Committee for Education, which is currently working with the Tobermory and Lion's Head SCC committees, the municipality, and the Bluewater Board of Education on education issues, the potential for school accommodation reviews of our schools, and the promotion of "Quality Education Close to Home". Please view our blog/website at:

<http://bpeducationmatters.wordpress.com/>

I am a past member of the St. Edmunds Township Park Action and Research Committee, and Northern Bruce Peninsula's National Park Community Committee, providing information and recommendations to municipal council on matters relating to the two National Parks within our community.

I've been a member of the Chi-Cheemaun Festival Committee for over 25 years.

Collectively, past and present members and volunteers have organized and operated the Festival for 40 years, raising tens of thousands of dollars for community projects too many to name.

Please follow this link to the Municipal Web Site to read

## My Campaign Focus



- *Education:* Our schools, and the quality education experience they provide are one of the most important things to maintain both a vibrant and viable community. While the municipal government has very little say and cannot dictate terms to the board of education, it nonetheless has a responsibility to the community to support and provide quality education opportunities in appropriate facilities. As a former St. Edmunds School and Community Council member and current member of the Peninsula Action Committee for Education, I continue to take an active role in education. I was involved in the last school accommodation review on the peninsula, and will continue to work with the PACE to ensure every option is explored to maintain all of our local schools, and provide innovative and quality education experiences to all of our students at St. Edmunds Public and Bruce Peninsula District Schools.

For more information on this very important topic, please visit the website of local School Board Trustee

<http://janethomson4trustee.weebly.com/>

Please visit the PACE blog/website at: <http://bpeducationmatters.wordpress.com/>

- *Municipal Land Use Planning:* Last year, the community was blindsided by the revised land use plan and proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law. I was part of a small group of concerned local business owners who recognized the potential negative implications of the by-law and associated mapping, and brought this to council's attention. This resulted in placing a hold on the implementation of the new zoning by-law, and a new Official Plan, which laid the groundwork for the by-law. As a member of council, I would work to ensure that to the extent allowed by provincial policy and legislation, revising the accompanying mapping to provide a more realistic representation of real life, on the ground conditions, and also promote a complete and comprehensive Official Plan. I would also advocate for a comprehensive review of the Bruce County Official Plan, which does not adequately represent the municipality outside of the urban areas of Ferndale, Lion's Head, and Tobermory. I feel we have a unique geographic isolation, linear geography, and unique economy that may not be accurately represented in the current plan. I believe we need more local, and less outside input into planning processes that affect local development.
- *Economic Development and Community Sustainability:* Tourism is one of the main economic drivers in Bruce County, but our economies are much more diverse than that. We have a healthy agricultural base in the southern areas of the county that we should continue to support when and where we can. We have a solid building construction and development sector that is supportive of this aspect of our economy by streamlining the development processes where we can, and addressing environmental issues where they may arise. We have a small but healthy manufacturing sector that is important, but we need to work towards expanding our off season visitation. After the 2012 Federal budget cuts, the government drastically reduced both the services offered and length of season at our local Parks without taking into account the increasing visitation, revenues, and responsibility to the local economy. This decision must be reversed. As a Councillor, I would work with community stakeholders to entertain and support new initiatives to diversify and strengthen our economic base. A strong and diverse economy is another essential component to maintain and improve the quality of life in a both a strong ally and advocate to achieve this goal.
- *Rising Costs of Policing:* The municipality has yet to receive its detailed costing estimates from the province, which would add \$200k annually for the next four years, more than doubling what we currently pay. This is a significant increase of roughly 4% annually. As is often the case, Queen's Park is punishing rural Ontario for the cost of policing in the province. Ontario. Our municipality has an obligation to vehemently oppose this situation, and there are opportunities for cost sharing opportunities with community partners.
- *Industrial Wind Farms:* This special landscape, with the largest remaining forest cover in southern Ontario, the Niagara Escarpment, and the unique biodiversity found on our home and public properties are being threatened for an expansion of Ontario's failed experiment in wind generation... that's without mentioning the significant environmental concerns, and unaffordable electricity costs. I most definitely DO NOT SUPPORT the installation of additional wind turbines on the Bruce Peninsula, not to mention the rest of Ontario.

