

COUNCIL MEMBERS' STATED POSITION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT.

Currently, much of the municipality is a tourist based economy with viability for only a few months of the year. Do you see a need to broaden the economic base for the municipality to provide jobs for 3 or 4 seasons? If not, why not? If yes, what would you propose?

Milt Mclver - Sustainable Economic Development that is not in competition with our existing tourism economy is in keeping with the Municipality's Strategic Plan. We live in a beautiful area that demands our care and protection, so we need to attract economic development that does not jeopardize the natural assets that we are so fortunate to have in the Northern Bruce Peninsula.

If re-elected, I would suggest and support implementing a Public Process that includes a Working Group to investigate expanded economic initiatives that would improve employment opportunities in Northern Bruce Peninsula. As always, I am interested to hear the ideas from our Community.

Patricia Greig - Increasingly I am convinced that we need to shift our focus to developing year round businesses such as manufacturing or developing the infrastructure to build knowledge based businesses. I am aware that this is a huge uphill struggle but if we tap into the initiatives been proposed regionally, we may be able to improve our services.

TOM BOYLE – Like many rural municipalities Northern Bruce Peninsula has a mix of agricultural, resource and service based economic activity. Unlike many rural municipalities there also exists the bonus of a special geography and ecology which has produce an excellent tourism economy. The length of the season is determined largely by the weather and the occurrence of special events which cause seasonal people to stay here longer. The Municipality is probably producing enough jobs or at least all that it can reasonably afford. And should not be relied on to be the principal driver of employment for the community.

The primary role of the local municipality is to assure that the infrastructure exists in such a condition that does not hinder economic development. Good roads, good drainage and well maintained facilities are attractive to quality development and production.

The municipality should clearly identify future options for water and waste water treatment and embed it into community planning. This infrastructure can be innovative and suited to the local environment.

Advanced communication technology is vital to the health of the community and is to be fostered in every way possible. See.... www.brucepeninsula.cafor more information

The activities of the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association and the Sources of Knowledge Forum program have offered programs and events that have the potential to expand into institutions based on knowledge and research. These opportunities can be similar to coastal institutes in the US or take a novel course. These organizations are now providing much community benefit along with full time employment. Municipal government should continue to support the knowledge economy and environmental programs.

Of course the Municipality has to support locally available primary and secondary education along with quality health care options.

ROB ROUSE *No reply to SEPO questionnaire instead,....the following is from his pre-election website*

Economic Development and Community Sustainability: Tourism is one of the main economic drivers in our community, but we are much more diverse than that. We have a healthy agricultural base in the southern areas of the community which we need to continue to support when and where we can. We have a solid building construction and development industry. We need to be supportive of this aspect of our economy by streamlining the development processes where we can, but still be cognizant of environmental issues where they may arise. We have a small but healthy manufacturing sector. Our tourism industry is strong, but we need to work towards expanding our off season visitation. After the 2012 Federal budget cuts, the Parks Canada Agency drastically reduced both the services offered and length of season at our local Parks without taking into consideration our increasing visitation, revenues, and responsibility to the local economy. This decision must be reversed. As a municipal Councillor, I would work with community stakeholders to entertain and support new initiatives to expand and enhance all areas of our economic base. A strong and diverse economy is another essential component to maintain community viability, and I will be a both a strong ally and advocate to achieve this goal.

GRIFFIN SALEN – I believe we should be considering every possibility to broaden the economic base of the municipality. Tourism is a very vulnerable industry, and while we should be sustainably expanding this to include the shoulder seasons of spring and fall, I believe we also need to start exploring new employment and development opportunities in MNP Technology can now allow us access previously inaccessible markets, such as knowledge-based professions i.e., consulting, law, marketing, and web design. We could also be pushing residents to online jobs such as telemarketing or online service. I would like to see to the creation of an economic development committee, working on new ways to promote economic growth in our area. This should involve educational resources for residents, incentives for new businesses, and advertising to other markets. This diversification of our job market and the recruitment of young families and professionals to our area will create a more resilient and versatile economy.