

MAYORAL ANSWERS TO QUINTE WEST CHAMBER QUESTIONS 2014

Sandra Carter

Terry Cassidy

Claud'R du-Lude

Jim Harrison

Monte Hennessy did not respond to questions

QUESTION 1: IN A RECENT POLL CONDUCTED BY THE CHAMBER ONLY 33% OF RESPONDENTS THINK THE CURRENT SYSTEM IS FAIR AND ONLY 28% THINK WE SHOULD KEEP THE CURRENT WARD SYSTEM AS IT IS. IF ELECTED WILL YOU SUPPORT A REVIEW OF THE WARD SYSTEM TO SEE IF THERE ARE BETTER OPTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

CARTER: Given that the current Ward system was established more than 15 years ago I believe that a review, with the goal of realizing improvements would be warranted and I would support such an effort.

CASSIDY: I would support a review of the ward system. It is healthy to periodically review the effectiveness and efficiency of our municipal governance structure, especially since the current ward system was based on the former municipal jurisdictions and is neither equitable for citizens nor balanced in population distribution. A careful review would include a detailed study to evaluate the relative options and benefits. Public consultation would need to be carried out across the entire city and carried out in each current ward as well. Should a preferred option be chosen by this Council, a review of the size of Council could also be useful. Changes, if any, could be put in place for the next term of Council in 2018.

DU-LUDE: Since 1991 it has been my platform

HARRISON: Yes Words will take you so far but action will take you further and that is what separates me from the other candidates. Review is necessary but must have a staff report and a committee with public involvement.

QUESTION 2: IF ELECTED WILL YOU SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE NEW TRENT PORT MARINA?

CARTER: Given the importance of Tourism to Quinte West combined with the substantial investment that we've made, I believe that the next mayor should do everything in his/her power to ensure that this investment realizes its maximum potential and brings great benefit to both our citizens and local businesses.

CASSIDY: Yes I would without question. Although I opposed the manner in which Council put this initiative forward I fully realize that this marina must be well run and successful or we will have not gotten good value for the \$12,000,000 that we spent. For the City as a whole to benefit we also need to do everything possible to complete this project by encouraging development of the adjacent properties. The City and the downtown in particular need more housing proximate to the marina and linking of waterfront trails. Transforming our core would also likely mean encouraging more community and cultural uses of waterfront lands while reducing the impact of industrial uses. A well developed waterfront with an outstanding "Trent Port Marina" would be a goal that I could lead our new Council to achieve.

DU-LUDE: Yes 100%

HARRISON: Yes, just a great asset

QUESTION 3: IF ELECTED HOW WILL YOU CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS WHILE PAYING FOR THE LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THE CITY HAS IN THEIR 10 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN.

CARTER: I will not only continue to support Tourism and Economic Development I will make both of these items a primary area of focus for our next city council. I strongly believe that we must capitalize on the investments made by the previous two councils and convert those investments into measurable successes for local businesses and citizens.

CASSIDY: Much has been done to support Tourism and Economic Development in our past term and I would continue that trend by also extending the community improvement program and by encouraging more small business initiatives, cultural development and waterfront trail development and active and public transit. I would also like to see our website and internet presence more actively feature what we have to offer with more links and news about how great a City Quinte West really is. It never hurts to talk proud of where and who you are and to welcome everyone to join us!

DU-LUDE: No response to this question

HARRISON: Large infrastructure costs are covered by our capital plan. We still have \$ for other projects General revenue will continue to increase. Some large infrastructure projects must be covered by users, such as water and sewer. There are some funding options available both Federal and Provincial.

QUESTION 4: IF ELECTED HOW WILL YOU MAKE THE TIME IN YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTIES ON COUNCIL INCLUDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES?

CARTER: I'm fortunate to have been self-employed for the past 16 years. If elected, I intend to step away from our family business and dedicate myself full-time to the duties and responsibilities of mayor of Quinte West.

CASSIDY: I would be a full time Mayor and retire from my current other work. I would commit to serving "all of the city all of the time". As head of Council I would ensure oversight of all of our committee and council work while involving all members of council in promoting our City.

HARRISON: I always have fulfilled my obligations and responsibilities. My punctuality and attendance record speaks for itself. I know, if elected. I can bring the right people together to complete necessary projects. I know the value of time and cash management.

DU-LUDE: 'Y' are you running if you can't accept responsibility

QUESTION 5: WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE CITY IN THE NEXT 4 YEARS?

CARTER: As I see it, the past 8 years have primarily been about investing in our infrastructure for the purposes of improving our quality of life as citizens and attracting new businesses and citizens to our beautiful city. While I believe that substantial gains have been made in infrastructure modernization I don't believe that we've yet realized the full benefit of these investments. In the next 4 years I would see actively leveraging our previous investments to finally attract new businesses, jobs and citizens to our community.

CASSIDY: As a Community Developer who cares about all of the Community my vision includes as much citizen involvement as possible. In the next 4 years my vision would include building a new dynamic Council team that would work well together to integrate our strategic plan with our capital plans to complete current and future infrastructure projects, and continue road and water and waste water renewals, and fully implement our

waterfront and marina project. I would also propose that we seriously work with our unemployed or underemployed, especially the youth and young entrepreneurs to create meaningful employment and business opportunities. We can't afford to waste or lose their talent. I would also like to see our fledging public transit system connect the city to itself, since many citizens live outside of the Trenton ward and need to travel within our city. Let's ensure that students can get to Loyalist College on affordable transit. My vision would also include creating a public Green Task Force to find every affordable way possible to reduce waste and conserve energy while beautifying our City by involving everyday citizens and businesses. Finally, I would provide a strong collaborative leadership style to the City and Council that would communicate better with all citizens using our internet service, town hall styled meetings, live streaming media and timely informative newsletters. I want to ensure that the Council decisions are transparent and that real opportunities for public involvement are provided before major decisions are carried out. At the end of our term Quinte West will have grown to be even more welcoming and hospitable to our visitors and we will have become healthier as a community that values and respects the contributions and sacrifices of our large military family. We will be more accessible and we will be well connected to our neighbours and we will have developed even stronger partnerships with federal and provincial governments. We will only do this by spending your money prudently which means we must stay within budget, reduce debt and increase reserves while keeping our tax rates as low as possible. This a vision that I hope to share and develop by engaging with all of the citizens of Quinte West. "I care and I am listening."

DU-LUDE: Invest in our future, our KIDS. Find new type of candidate that accept to be part and listen to electorate and be responsible for a section/ward of town.

HARRISON: I want to continue to build our city on the great foundation that the present mayor and council have provided. I want to continue to improve our infrastructure and market our beautiful city and waterfront. I intend to address both urban and rural issues ever mindful that there is only one taxpayer, you and I. My vision of the city includes connecting with and supporting our youth in all their endeavours. Our city appreciates the military's presence and we must continue to improve the rapport already established. Our hospital's services are essential to our city and we must continue to support the Hospital Foundation. We live in the best city, in the best province, in the best country and we are proud of it. Let's continue to go forward.