

MURRAY WARD ANSWERS TO QUINTE WEST CHAMBER QUESTIONS 2014

Jim Alyea

Gerry Caume did not respond to questions

Stacey Dunning

Chantal Fraser

David McCue

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?

ALYEA: It can be revisited. I think the present system assures an elected voice from each area giving more fair representation. There is a possibility that some wards would not have any voice and another have all the say.

DUNNING: Yes, I will. I believe that a review would be beneficial. We must always look at what is best for our city, and how we can address the concerns of the community. We have a large geographical area to cover, with much rural land. My hope is that whatever is decided regarding the ward system, is one that is well accepted amongst our constituents. We want all residents in Quinte West to feel as though council is available, reachable, and approachable. It is only fair that each constituent feels appropriately represented.

FRASER: I definitely support a review of the system to ensure that representation on council reflects the population changes in this area. The current council is the right size, but it should reflect current and growing population trends in Quinte West. I believe it is important for people to be represented by someone who lives or works in their Ward. I would prefer to see a re-allocation of council seats rather than councillors at large or increasing the size of council. If Quinte West adopts a candidates at large system, then I would recommend banning campaign lawn signs

McCUE: YES

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

ALYEA: Yes I would. I have supported it from the beginning and will continue to do so in every stage

DUNNING: I believe the Trent Port Marina is an excellent initiative that will draw more tourism to the area and allow more people to see the gem that Quinte West is. We have such wonderful fishing, so much beautiful waterfront, and downtown Trenton has definitely begun a revitalization. Our new marina is an excellent addition to Quinte West. I believe "If you build it, they will come," is the saying. Moving forward, we need to continue to draw more restaurant owners and small businesses to our downtown core so that people using the marina can have the most memorable experience and look forward to returning to Quinte West in the future.

FRASER: Tourism is one of the top economic drivers in the Bay of Quinte Region. The new Trent Port Marina has the potential to draw tourists to Quinte West and provide economic growth for related businesses. I support the growth of local businesses, organizations, public services and infrastructure that will enhance tourism. For example dedicated bicycle lanes and public transportation; which offer tourists easier access to current attractions

such as the National Air Force Museum of Canada. I also support the development of attractions such as the Trent Port Museum and the Quinte West Youth Centre mini-golf course

McCUE: YES

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.

ALYEA: We have to continue to support both the Tourism and Economic Development as they are an important and included in our budgeting process. By promoting and advertising of such attraction as our new Trent Port Marina for example to bring more tourists and money to our area.

DUNNING: I believe we need to look at what we already have and begin to promote and advertise more effectively. We have many attractions in the area, from our waterfronts to our local restaurants, musicians, farmers, artists, and museums. We need to do a better job getting the word out, perhaps “branding” Quinte West. I have spoken to many concerned constituents that feel the same way, wondering why Brighton and Prince Edward County are many times the preferred destinations. Creating an artisans trail is something I believe could take off. We need to spend time discover the hidden gems of Quinte West and then find exciting ways to market ourselves. We need to do a better job letting both our residents and our visitors know why Quinte West is the best place to live, work and play.

FRASER: I will volunteer to serve on the Bay of Quinte Region Tourism Board. I will promote the use of existing programs such as the Small Business Centre, Trenval, and the Bay of Quinte Region branding to encourage new entrepreneurs to locate their place of business and make their home in Quinte West increasing our tax base. I will support applications for provincial and federal funded programs in partnership with other Bay of Quinte municipalities and counties. Additional Payment in Lieu of Taxes due to the Special Operations Forces moving to our city should be allocated towards sustainable infrastructure projects.

McCUE: Tourism and Economic development are an essential part of moving Quinte West forward. One of my first duties will be to review the city's finances and see what monies are available or can be made available for this and other worthwhile projects that help keep our city moving forward. This includes but is not limited to stretching out the completion and payment times of existing big infrastructure projects.

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?

ALYEA: As in the past I am always available as I am self-employed. I have always attended every meeting and any call for last minute special meetings and any ratepayers concerns.

DUNNING: I have always been extremely involved in the school communities in which I have taught. I have been a part of many extra-curricular activities that go above and beyond the call of duty as an educator. But, it is these projects which make being a teacher so exciting and rewarding. I spoke to many people before I submitted my nomination, and made sure I understood the time investments this job entails. I have an extremely supportive family and am excellent at managing my time. This job is something I believe in and therefore, it will be a priority of mine, if elected. I do not worry about the time commitments, instead look forward to being so immersed and invested in the development of my community.

FRASER: I will balance the needs of serving as a Councillor; running my business; and spending quality time with my family, the same way that I have always balanced work, community volunteer and family obligations. I will prioritize my efforts and delegate or outsource tasks as necessary. I may outsource my web page management, I may delegate further household tasks to my children, helping them develop important life skills and I may choose to reduce some of my other community volunteer activities. I will make these choices once I am elected as a Councillor and better understand the time commitment required.

McCUE: I am semi-retired & set my own hours so finding time for city business will not be a problem.

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

ALYEA: I would certainly want the continued update of our infrastructure of roads, streets, water sewers. To support new business, housing, and continue facade improvements in Trenton and Frankford. To keep marketing and pursuing new business vigorously, being large or small. We need to support existing and new programs in recreation for our youth in our community.

DUNNING: In the next 4 years, I hope the city of Quinte West can continue to move in a positive direction. I look forward to the completion of our new Public Works facility and the Trent Port Marina. I believe protecting the services that still exist at Trenton Memorial Hospital are important, but that if we want lost services to return we must focus on growing our city; we need to be doing better than a 1% growth rate. I would like to see better roads in Murray Ward, including a well built and very much needed 2 lane bridge across the Murray Canal. Also, better broadband service, so that our residents and home-based businesses can function accordingly. We cannot expect to attract new families and businesses to the area if we are unable to provide them with the amenities that are so much wanted and needed in our technologically driven society. Finally, I hope that the people of Murray Ward feel well represented, and that their concerns, big or small, are being taken seriously and being dealt with in the best, most beneficial way. It is the people that live here that make up our great city, and we must always take care of our own.

FRASER: My vision is a Quinte West that attracts and retains new entrepreneurs of all ages, who wish to work, live and raise their families in our area. A city with meaningful and rewarding career options for youth. I envision Quinte West as a vibrant community where local businesses thrive. Businesses such as farms, shops, restaurants, service providers, artists, and knowledge workers. A city that invests in sustainable infrastructure such as the new Public Works building, public transportation, bicycle lanes and rural internet coverage. I will pursue and support programs, policies and partnerships that will help make this vision a reality.

McCUE: Staying on top of infrastructure, completion of a new public works yard, improvements to our downtown core, more new businesses (large and small) with good paying salaries, a full and vibrant marina, expansion of bus services, lots of new military families with the completion of CFB Trenton, possibly a new fire hall and/ or police station as budgets permit and more tourist related venues.