



2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Candidate Biographies: Mayor



Yvonne Hamlin

Yvonne Hamlin is the current Mayor of Collingwood. She has served on Council since 2018 and as Mayor since 2022.

During Yvonne's term as Mayor, Collingwood has advanced several major community priorities, including provincial approval of a new Collingwood Hospital on Poplar Sideroad, the \$270 million expansion of the Town's water treatment plant without impacting property taxes, and the recruitment of six new family doctors. Yvonne has been actively involved in advocating for Collingwood's priorities with other levels of government and has emphasized strong financial management, making significant investments in infrastructure while keeping the 2026 property tax increase to 2.39%.

Before becoming Mayor, Yvonne spent 27 years as a lawyer specializing in municipal, property tax, and land-use planning law. She represented residents, municipalities, landowners, and developers, giving her a clear understanding of how development decisions are made and how municipalities can protect the public interest.

A lifelong volunteer, Yvonne has chaired several non-profit organizations and served with local arts and heritage organizations including the Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts, the Purple Hills Arts and Heritage Society, and the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay.

Yvonne has lived in the area for almost 18 years and is proud to call Collingwood home. She lives with her husband and their dog, Byron, and loves spending time with her grandchildren.

Candidate Contact Information:

Email: connect@yvonnehamlin.com

Website: yvonnehamlin.com



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Jon Hillis

I'm a small-town guy at heart. I grew up in Paris, Ontario, in a blue-collar manufacturing household, where I learned the value of hard work, showing up, helping out and taking pride in the community around you.

Today, Collingwood is home. It is where my wife Michelle and I are raising our two boys and where we have chosen to build our lives.

My professional background is in business, technology, elected leadership and community building. I have founded and led companies, managed teams and budgets, held elected leadership roles, worked with municipal, provincial and federal governments, and helped build a business that was ultimately sold for \$36 million. My career has focused on solving problems, building strong teams, working collaboratively and finding practical ways to improve how organizations operate.

Community involvement has always been an important part of my life. In Collingwood, I have helped build and grow organizations including the Collingwood Volleyball Club and Collingwood Flag Football, coached youth sports, volunteered with local groups and served with the Optimist Club of Collingwood.

I also created Techskis, an event that brings entrepreneurs, business leaders and technology professionals to Collingwood and has helped create connections between our community and people from across the innovation sector.

Across business, sport and community organizations, I have always enjoyed bringing people together, listening to different perspectives, building capable teams and turning ideas into action.

Candidate Contact Information:

Email: jon@tenurerewards.com



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Kathy Jeffery

Proudly serving my fifth term as a municipal politician in the Town of Collingwood, I am a third-generation Collingwood resident who deeply appreciates the quality of life, opportunities and strong sense of community that make our town exceptional.

I am a proud mother of two adult married children who have also chosen to keep Collingwood home, and “Noani” to four grandchildren. Watching them grow, participate in soccer, run clubs, hockey, school concerts, and thrive in our community is a privilege I never take for granted.

Throughout my years on Council, I have served in numerous leadership roles, including Chair and Vice-Chair, Collingwood OPP Detachment Board, Council’s Committee of the Whole Chair, and as a Hospital Board and Hospital Foundation Board member. Currently I serve as the Town’s Alternate Simcoe County Councillor. Additionally, I contributed to Small Towns Habitat–Collingwood World Summit and the COVID Economic Support and Recovery Task Force.

Fostering awareness of Collingwood nationally and internationally through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as a National Director, I have chaired national committees, working groups and task forces. Particularly passionate about encouraging more women to participate in local leadership I have represented FCM through programs in Jordan, Morocco, Sweden and West Africa.

Volunteering in Collingwood for more than 40 years, I have supported organizations including Hockey Battles Cancer, Collingwood Kinette Club (Life Member), Collingwood Minor Hockey, youth soccer and Home Horizon.

A Georgian College graduate, I am also a lifelong sports enthusiast and proud third-degree Tae Kwon Do black belt.

Candidate Contact Information:

Address: 3 Shannon Court, Collingwood

Email: kathyjefferyformayor@gmail.com

Website: www.kathyjeffery.ca



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Norm Sandberg

Norm Sandberg has called Collingwood home for 45 years. He and his wife, Jan, raised their family here. Today, their children and grandchildren continue to live, work and raise their families in the community.

Norm is a Certified Engineering Technologist and a graduate of Environmental Engineering Technology. He has more than 35 years of experience working with municipalities across Ontario. His career has focused on planning, designing and delivering water, wastewater and other municipal infrastructure. He currently manages a major municipal infrastructure program supporting housing and growth.

Norm is serving his second term on the Board of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT). He chairs its Governance, Policy and Strategy Committee, which recently led the development of OACETT's three-year Strategic Plan and Labour Market Study. He has also taught Municipal Services at Georgian College.

Norm served four terms on Collingwood Council between 1993 and 2010. He also served as President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Chair of Ontario Small Urban Municipalities, representing communities across the province.

Community service has long been part of Norm's life. His involvement has included Collingwood Minor Hockey, Collingwood Optimist Youth Soccer, the Collingwood Museum Board, Collingwood Public Library Board, Georgian Trail Board (Chair), Breaking Down Barriers, affordable housing initiatives, Accessibility Committee and the Canadian Ski Patrol.

Norm currently serves as Chair of the Board of Tracks Employment Services in Collingwood.

Candidate Contact Information:

Address: 328 Pine St, Collingwood
Phone Number: 705-445-8384
Email: norm@norm4mayor.ca
Website: norm4mayor.ca