

Why Run for Council?

Be a Leader of your community

Help Shape the Future of Collingwood

Our community is constantly transforming. Consider bringing your skills and life experiences to the table and lead our community through decisions over the next 4 years. Council is elected to bring a voice to issues that matter to our community. They bring valuable perspectives, beliefs, viewpoints, and experience to topics and projects in the Town of Collingwood. They care about the issues of their constituents and are the voice for these concerns at the council table. The job description varies however, the basic components on a member of council include:

- responding to community concerns;
- being aware of important issues in the community;
- concentrating on issues that are important to you and the community, and bringing them forward to council;
- participating in discussions and making decisions regarding by-laws, policies and proposed projects in council and committee meetings; and
- realizing that council members have a dual responsibility to look after voters' concerns, as well as the concerns of the municipality as a whole.

Each responsibility brings its own rewards, and council knows that they are making a difference in the lives of their neighbours and community. Whether it's discussions around enhancing community well-being, environmental sustainability, development, support in culture and the arts, local business, and tourism these are just some of the topics that matter to providing our residents with the tools needed to succeed.

Elected leaders play a vital role making sure communities are healthy and successful, socially and economically. Not only do you get to advocate for your passions, council shapes priorities, ensure public accountability, and represent the people who elect them. They provide a democratic forum for unique perspectives and viewpoints to be heard, so that better decisions are made and good governance is upheld.



What's stopping you?

The most common questions answered

1. **I don't feel qualified enough**
People from all backgrounds, education levels, and types of work are essential in representing all members of our community. Caring about your community and meeting the age and residency requirements are the only mandatory credentials. **If you have a desire to serve others and care about the community, you are more than qualified.** If you've never sat on Council but want to, the best time to start is now!
2. **I have a family. How do I balance my time with work, family, and council?**
Young families are the fresh start to our community! Serving on Council does require you to review the meeting package, and attend regularly various meetings throughout the year. However, being a parent or caregiver means you have a unique perspective towards the needs other families in our community have, including recreation, programs, childcare, and schooling.

Contributing to your community in this leadership role will help pave the way for your young family members to have a bright future in Town of Collingwood. Being a Council member also comes with financial benefits. Your time is compensated for attending meetings, which may help your family's financial portfolio.

3. **I don't know much about local politics**
You don't have to belong to a certain political party to run for municipal Council. All you need to know is why you want to run and what drives your commitment to positive community involvement. In the role, you will quickly get "up-to-speed" with the current and future projects.
4. **I'm not great at public speaking**
Public speaking is among the top 10 most common fears. A Council member is a public role and will require some dialogue at council and with your constituents. This is a great way to gain confidence with public speaking.
5. **How do I start?**
Candidates interested in running for local offices (municipality and school board) can file a nomination form with the Town Clerk. Nominations will be accepted until August 18, 2022, and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on August 19, 2022 (Nomination Day) at the Town Hall, 97 Hurontario Street, Collingwood. Set up an appointment ahead of time by calling 705-445-1030 or send us an email with your questions at election@collingwood.ca

For more information, visit www.collingwood.ca/election