



Mayor Sandra Cooper  
Inaugural Speech  
December 1, 2014

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## **COLLINGWOOD, ON**

Welcome to the Inauguration of 2014.

Thank you to Branch 63 for accommodating this historical event. To the Office of the Mayor and Clerk Services for organizing the Inauguration, job well done!

Sincere thanks to the Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> Degree for participating. Town Crier, Ken Templeman and Legion Piper, Emilee Bennett, you add an official quality to all events. Thank you to Tom Merrifield for the Charge to Council.

Thank you to others named in the Program.

My husband, Ken, a huge thank you for your support along with my family.

My parents, Jack and Fran Bonwick, you have always encouraged me to follow my dreams.

To my Campaign Team my sincere gratitude.

Today I stand before you, family, friends, colleagues and fellow citizens. It is difficult for me to express the feelings of humility, pride and most importantly excitement that I am experiencing this morning.

Congratulations Council.

I am very proud of our community and most importantly, I am excited about today's Inauguration and the next four years.

I am humbled in knowing that those who came before us, have made such significant contributions in building this incredible community we call home.

I am honoured that you have placed in me, and my fellow Members of Council, your trust and confidence to address new challenges that lay before us.

I feel such pride in our hometown of Collingwood. I am truly a local and proud to live here. I am proud that my family enjoys life in Collingwood.

I know as a Council, we are feeling a great energy and total commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant community for future generations.

The challenges that lie ahead are many; our collective abilities to address these challenges are strong; the opportunities that will be realized from our efforts are great.

We will continue to grow a community in which we can be proud.

We see it in the founding families who built our Town. Mayor William Hamilton in 1858, active in the formation of the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital. Mayor Alick McDonald served from 1961-1969, a catalyst of Collingwood's industrial park and first Mayor presented with the Chain of Office.

We see it in our newest residents that give so much to our community, through volunteer hours at the hospital, builders of Hospice Campbell House or becoming active in the many service clubs and churches, these people make a difference.

Most importantly we see it in the eyes of our children, a sincere hope and desire to experience a sense of community, to raise children, to work and to enjoy the results of their hard work in later years, in the Town of Collingwood.

This election, it was quite evident the focus being the value of our waterfront, the desire to develop the jewel of Georgian Bay that would highlight the beauty of our community as a priority.

The Council of 2014-2018, should look to build upon the success as seventh place in Canada for entrepreneurs. I want job creation to remain an important objective by working with employers for a sustainable economy.

Infrastructure projects will continue to be developed with Council consensus leadership, at the Council table. I am excited about the opportunity to continue to lead through this approach to maximize prospects with anticipated development in our community.

The needs of our residents are many and varied. It is necessary to operate in a spirit of financial prudence.

We will need to encourage and examine alliances and partnerships. Our Team, your Council, is going to have to think outside the box on a variety of issues.

My promise is simple and straight forward. I will give our community every ounce of positive energy. I will work with my fellow Councillors in an open, positive and engaging manner. I will make decisions in the same way you would because at the end of the day we all aspire to the same; a stronger, more vibrant and united Collingwood.

That is my commitment.

Thank you!