



3 Questions

For

Municipal Councillor Candidates

The Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce posed three questions to the seven candidates running for Municipal Council. The following pages list each question, along with the candidates' answers.

The Election Forum at 7pm on October 4, 2017, will be held at the MDM Community Centre in Bellevue, and will provide another opportunity for individuals to ask questions of the candidates.

For more information, please contact the Chamber office at 403-562-7108 or office@crowsnestpasschamber.ca.



Marlene Anctil

- 1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?**

Community beautification programs have many positive advantages. A well-planned program can be a useful tool in visual effects of a municipality which in turn can help promote business revitalization. Although the Municipality has a limited budget, a yearly beautification grant would be a good incentive towards beautification.

- 2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?**

I believe the Municipality supports small business through the Economic Development Board. They are presently marketing the Crowsnest Pass which in turn will benefit all businesses.

- 3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.**

With the onset of the Castle Park and the Economic Development Marketing Plan I feel tourism will have a large economic value. This marketing plan includes business, tourism and new business incentives.

Dave Filipuzzi

- 1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?**

Beautification is a topic as a councillor and as a council we discussed at length, and were committed to in our budget by allocating money and resources to be a leader in our community. It really portrays an image of pride, and I am committed to the Municipality setting a positive example so we can all be proud of our community.

- 2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?**

As a candidate and hopefully a councillor, local business would have my total support. We have lost some business lately, and it is hard to see this happen. During my term we have supported groups as a council to promote small and independent business. There was an Empty Building Program put together by local volunteers to showcase some of our empty buildings. Also, the Economic Development Committee is representing the community at trade shows to attract business. We put a policy in place to offer incentives, plus interest-free loans with Community Futures. When we realized the impact that the changes to the Utility Rate Bylaw had on small business, we moved quickly to amend the bylaw. Small and independent businesses are the backbone of our community.

- 3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.**

For me this question tugs at the core of my soul. From the beginning of my term, I asked to be on the Economic Development Committee because of my love and passion for this community. I was born here, raised here, retired here and now have a passion to serve as a councillor here. The Economic Development Committee has worked hard to promote this community with a website, advertising on TV, a marketing plan and attending trade shows. They have also worked hard to try to bring business here, they have worked on beautification with signage and a host of other ideas. We have met with Travel Alberta, the Minister of Heritage and Culture and other groups to promote tourism in the community. I am so proud of this volunteer group for their hard work and their commitment to the community, and I am so proud to have had the opportunity to support them as council representative.

Doreen Glavin

1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?

I feel that community beautification plays a key role in community pride and ownership, economic development, and tourism. Community beautification is one of Council's strategic priorities and \$15,000 was allocated in the 2017 budget for this. Moving forward, I feel there should be a beautification plan developed and funded by the Municipality.

The Municipality's responsibility to maintain a reasonable standard of community beautification is ensuring the maintenance of green spaces, municipal property, watering flowers, and cemetery maintenance. The Municipality continues to work with the community in cleaning up unsightly premises.

2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?

I feel business retention is as important as industry. A successful business core leads to business expansion, increased services, and increased jobs. Being business friendly is a strategic priority for Council. The Municipality is streamlining processes for businesses, paid the interest on loans from Community Futures to businesses, and created a new business/industry development incentive. The Economic Development Committee has contributed to the Chamber of Commerce tourist guides. The Municipality is continuing to explore fibre optics for the community. Moving forward, I feel that Council should meet with the Chamber of Commerce and have a discussion on what other support is needed.

3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.

I feel tourism, like industry, contributes to the economy. The Crowsnest Pass has everything to offer. Proximity, scenery, recreation, arts, culture, culinary, heritage, and numerous events. Increasing tourism is a challenge, with the uncertainty of Highway 3, drawing traffic off the highway, and keeping the Crowsnest Pass affordable for its residents.

I feel that building on marketing the Crowsnest Pass, with engagement from the community, partnerships, utilizing our transit system (historical tours), a tourist Information Centre when entering the Crowsnest Pass from the east, and community beautification are some of the ways to overcome these challenges.

Gordon Lundy

1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?

Community beautification is a necessary component to enhance our communities for our residents and visitors. With the work that the Creative Minds Group recently completed, Town Council with the Chamber, the Economic Development Committee, volunteer organizations and individuals could further develop a long-term beautification plan. Each organization could undertake a component of the plan, while the Town focuses on our entrance features and designated higher profile landscaped areas entering our communities and along Highway 3.

2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?

Town Council should continue to work with the Economic Development Committee for the promotion and coordination of economic and tourism initiatives in our municipality. I would be amenable to consider with Council a review of municipal regulations, should a business have a new or innovative proposal requiring this. Also, I would work to maintain that there is a fair and equitable property taxation policy and utility costs to the business community.

3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.

Our Municipality over the long term has seen the continued development of tourism-related businesses which add to our overall economic activity as a destination point. This includes the many activities and events such as camping, fly-fishing, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, historical tours, the Bellevue underground mine and Frank interpretive centre, non-permanent resident residential development, quadding, snowmobiling, accommodations and restaurants. The list does not include all of the activities and events, but shows that tourism has become a larger component of our local economy.

Leslie McCallum

- 1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?**

I prefer that Crowsnest Pass look well-maintained and welcoming to both residents and visitors. The Municipality needs to be a supportive partner for community beautification by initiating small projects and by providing equipment and resources to events, especially when Chamber members are taking a leadership role.

- 2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?**

I can offer small business expertise. As a past business owner, I helped other businesses become more profitable through planning, strategic management and technical adaptation. I believe the Municipality should make it easy to be in business by having bylaws, policies and licencing that are simple and attractive. It should promote a welcoming environment for business and encourage business investment.

- 3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.**

We have many growing facilities and events that draw increasing numbers of tourists. Examples include racing, biking, snowmobiling, off-road vehicles, hiking paths, and expanding ski hill and transformation of the golf course, to name a few. We need to celebrate what we have and look for ways to build on those resources with a plan that balances tourist development with infrastructure maintenance.

Lisa Sygutek

1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?

Community beautification is an important aspect to making our community an inviting place to stop, live and shop. However, if we continue the downward spiral of empty buildings and few businesses on Main Street, the issue becomes a moot point. I didn't know until I did research that we have a Community Beautification loan through Community Futures, which allows businesses to borrow \$10,000 interest free for renovations. In fact we are in year 3 of 5 of the program. I think these types of programs need and should have been vigorously advertised to the business owners throughout the Chamber. If I didn't have a clue as a Chamber member, I'm certain many don't as well.

I am a huge believer in the municipality offering incentive for beautification in the form of business tax rebates or relief based on a sliding scale of cost.

A reasonable standard is set out in our unsightly premises bylaw and enforced by the by-law officer.

I do not think it is up to the municipality or special interest groups to set out a standard requirement for a certain 'store front' look such as Fernie. The market will dictate that as the community progresses.

2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?

I have run a small business in this community, so I have a unique perspective on how difficult it is, especially in a community where small business is the backbone of the economy.

The municipality's role is to entice small businesses to set up shop in the community. I think the EDC, is doing a great job on that end with the new website and trade shows. The municipality needs to work cooperatively with these groups to keep the 'train moving' forward. As a small business owner I know that the first three years of any business is the key to success or failure, so I propose a tax reduction for new business for their first three years of operation on a sliding scale. I also think we should do the same for large industry interested in coming into the area.

4. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.

I think tourism is a fantastic opportunity for the community, as we are truly the last of the 'free wildlife' areas in Alberta. However, I do not believe it can be all we have. I believe we need industry, large industry, to offset the tax base in the community. Presently our tax base is primarily residential, putting the onus on the residents in the community. Considering we are the oldest community per capita in Canada; that means the seniors on a fixed income are hit the hardest. We need large based industry to offset the burden. I do believe that industry and tourism can work hand in hand. A prime example is Riversdale Resources and the CNP Golf and Country Club.

Dean Ward

1. What is your stance on community beautification and what do you feel is the Municipality's responsibility when it comes to maintaining a reasonable standard?

We should all be partners in community beautification (which 95% of our residents are). This year we started a beautification initiative by setting aside \$15,000 and hopefully this is just the beginning. I am also optimistic that groups such as the Chamber will join us in these kinds of initiatives.

2. Most of the businesses in the community would be classified as small businesses and independent. What do you have to offer local businesses as a candidate and what do you believe is the municipality's role in supporting small business?

During my time as a Councillor I have always taken the position of trying to minimize any cost increases to our residents and commercial sector (taxes, various fees, etc.). I will continue to do this. I also believe that it is important for us to continue to improve on how we regulate business. We all recognize that regulatory and safety standards have to be met, but the government's job should be to make that process as streamlined and simple as possible.

3. Many of our local businesses are in the service and tourism category. Describe how you see tourism fitting into our local economy.

I recently attended a meeting with the CEO of Travel Alberta, Royce Chwin. The question was asked of him, "How can we ever become a tourism destination as long as we are seen as a mining town?" He made it very clear that from his experience there is no reason that we couldn't be both a mining and a tourism community. I believe that if the Grassy Mountain Project comes on line, it will create the high-paying jobs that will attract young families. These young families will also become the ambassadors that will promote our other great asset (everything that is around us) to their families and friends. I also look at all the good work being done by our Economic Development Board, and various businesses and groups to attract and promote tourism. I believe it's critical for any community to have their economy as diversified as possible.