

Oct 16th Remarks

Good evening and thanks to the Nobleton Schomberg District Chamber of Commerce for this opportunity. My name is Jeff Laidlaw, and I am running for Councillor, Ward 2, the Nobleton/Laskay area.

Contrary to what you may have heard, I am not against sewers or growth and am pleased that a local treatment plant is the preferred sewage treatment option for Nobleton. I still have concerns over water issues and have spoken with York Region and the Ministry of the Environment. As your Councillor, I will continue to try to achieve the best possible solution to protect our water supply.

However, one of my biggest concerns is the lack of communication between the Town and its citizens.

The Slokker subdivision seemed to be mostly a “done deal” before the residents had even heard about it, and the residents have had no input in to the recommendation to demolish the Nobleton Lions/Women’s Institute Community Hall. Members of both of these groups told me that they were not consulted. How did that recommendation get into the Recreation Master Plan? I will work to take steps necessary to have the recommendation changed and the process improved.

I have heard rumours that a strip plaza is planned for the west side of Highway 27, north of the King Rd. The Nobleton Community Plan states “New development in the village core should improve the visual attractiveness of the area” and that would mean that any strip mall would have to be quite different from the ones that we currently have:

I have heard rumours that there will be an industrial park west of 400 and north of the King Road, just north of Laskay. The impact could be huge. So far that area is not zoned industrial.

You need a strong Councillor who will work with residents to ensure that whatever development is to take place... will reflect their wishes as well.

The Village Design Guidelines suggest maintenance of a village character; and one aspect includes narrowing of roads through the center core, yet, York Region’s Transportation Master Plan calls for the widening of King Road from 400 to Bolton, to 4 lanes. You need a strong Councillor who will work to achieve consistency.

There are problems with traffic through Nobleton, and as an interim measure I will ask Council to endorse a request to York Region to reinstate the “No Heavy trucks” rule on King Road. An east-west By-pass is a longer term option, but where possible not on the environmentally sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine.

When elected, one of the things I will do is convene regular open meetings with residents and business owners to share information, opinions, determine the options, and together determine the priorities.

One of the things I’d like is a commitment by the township to each ward to set aside a separate fund out of general revenue, which is managed by a committee of the constituents, for the improvement of that ward.

Another thing I’d hope for, is a review of naturally occurring economic opportunities. For example, King Township has the Holland Marsh and yet no food processing or packaging companies; a large horse industry and yet no racetracks or showgrounds, and over 60,000 acres of the Oak Ridges Moraine and yet few bed and breakfasts. Development in these areas would lower taxes and provide jobs.

I want this Township to serve its residents and businesses and I am ready, willing and able to serve you, the residents and business owners of the Nobleton – Laskay area, as your Councillor.

Thank you.