



Candidate Questionnaire
2018 Municipal Election

Candidate: Peter Koetsier

Please use as much space as you require to fully answer the questions.

General

- Please provide a short bio of your Professional, Community and Municipal experience and explain how your particular skills will enhance decision making at Council.
29 years as senior executive of international manufacturer based in Barrie,
Director (often Treasurer) of Georgian Bay Land Trust, Georgian Bay Association, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Honey Harbour Association (President 5 years),
Member, Committee of Adjustment (4 years), key player Save Our Schools (2016-2017),
My desire and ability to hear all sides, be fair, objective, and open-minded, along with my extensive experience, will help us achieve better decisions for the future of our Township.

Services, Taxation and Good Governance

- Describe your two highest priorities for our municipality, in the short term and the long term?
Better well-informed forward-looking long-term planning decisions, including respect for the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, with full consideration of environmental consequences.
Bridging the divides between all the communities in our Township, so we all can work together towards a better Township for everybody.
- Many constituents believe that the services provided to seasonal residents are not commensurate with the taxes paid. What steps would you take to address this concern?
Strengthen our voice at District to get better value from all our tax dollars sent to them.



Continue to apply for more services from the Schoolboard for all our education taxes. Strive for greater efficiencies in our Township operations, and minimize lawsuits and appeals through better listening, greater transparency, and fairness.

Environment

- Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development. How important is it, and is a balance currently being maintained?

It is very important that all development be sustainable in the long-term. We cannot enjoy economic growth if we harm the environment that draws all of us to our Township. I do not believe we have achieved that balance yet.

- The Township has financially supported Georgian Bay Forever along with several cottage associations in their efforts to control and eventually eradicate invasive Phragmites (Australis). What additional steps do you believe that the Township should be taking to assist with these efforts?

The Township must encourage all parties, including the Province and the Park, to join the fight against Phragmites, as well as against other invasive plants and species.

- Are you satisfied with the costs and outcomes of the programs undertaken by Georgian Bay Township to help improve/maintain water quality in the Township, including water quality testing and the inspection/maintenance of residential septic systems? If not, what action or changes would you recommend?

No – I believe more can and should be done to protect our waters, including increased septic monitoring, water testing, and enforcing highest standards for new development.

Planning



- With regard to planning regulations and enforcement within Georgian Bay Township, how will you manage a balanced approach to protecting the interests of property owners and protecting the Georgian Bay ecosystem?

Full respect for, and enforcement of, our Zoning By-Laws, based on the intentions of our Official Plan, including community plans, is essential for all residents and our environment. At the same time, we must make procedures as straight forward and relevant as possible in order not to frustrate applicants' good intentions.

- Community plans reflect the specific characteristics of each community. How will you protect their integrity and ensure the continued adherence to existing and future community plans?

Community plans are an important part of our Official Plan, and must be respected. They must be used to inform Zoning By-Laws.

Community Engagement

- There are many stakeholder groups that are active or reside in Georgian Bay Township, including First Nations communities, community (cottage) associations, Georgian Bay focused organizations, and provincial and federal government agencies. In what ways are you satisfied that Georgian Bay Township is doing enough to work together cooperatively and productively with these stakeholders and in what ways do you believe that improvements are needed? If so, what improvements would you recommend?

We must do more to build bridges between all communities, first by genuinely listening, followed by finding ways to work constructively together.

- How do you envision communicating with constituents, many of whom live out of the municipality for parts of the year, to get their opinions, hear their concerns and inform them of important township initiatives?

Increase regular communications with all constituents. I would like to see the Township build an email list to reach all residents.



Other

- If you have thoughts on topics not covered in the above questions or would like to just add a closing comment please feel free to do so here.

Please go to www.peterkoetsier.ca for more information about me and my platform. Or email me at campaign.koetsier@rogers.com. Check out my facebook page Peter Koetsier for Mayor. I hope you will vote for me so we all can move forward together. Thank you.