

## **All candidates meeting for Waterloo Region Chair Wed 10 October, 2018**

### **Initial presentation by Candidates**

Jay-My priorities are : 1. To build a new teaching hospital for Wat Region ; 2. Develop a master transportation plan to include LRt, Bus, Trains & cars so it will be possible to go from Elmira to Cambridge with transfers ; 3. Expand first response department ; 4. Increase affordable housing by using a split rent plan

Karen:--- This election is about leadership for faster change. Wat Region has a good history of coping in tough times. I have no fixed list of priorities, rather I promise to work hard to reflect your priorities and be accountable

Jan:-- I bring both a global perspective (several years working abroad) and also experience such as my work locally in fixing the RIM financial problem as well as environmental work in NW Waterloo.

Rob:-- We are a prosperous community but many families need help. My priorities are : 1. Affordable housing which is a major issue ; 2. Improve transit at hopefully a lower cost pp ; 3. develop bike lanes

### **Questions- I will summarize a few**

#### **Q1- Do you support a ranked ballot ?**

Jan- Yes I am a big supporter of this approach

Jay- Yes, but I want to look into it more so I will wait and see

Rob- Yes and I hope that Cambridge will lead the way by voting to approve it

Karen- It has a lot of merit because the winner must have 50%+1, but my concern is it will make voting more complex. Perhaps we need to look at the whole issue including computerized voting

#### **Q2- How will you stand up to Premier Ford if he wants to cut in our Region by amalgamating?**

Jay:-- As a businessman I will show Ford we are smart and efficient

Karen:-- I will stress partnership between Region & Province

Jan:-- I will meet with Ford and stress the Region's record and request that we be allowed to develop our own approach to any cchanges he mandates

Rob:-- Ford is a business guy and he is TROUBLE. He needs \$6 billion in cuts to meet his promises. Wat Region has a big debt load because of the LRT and we are vulnerable. I think Ford will NOT listen to us.

**Q3- Will you support the citizen request to have the engineer/planning team do an in depth comparison of the citizen plan for the LRT extension to the current preferred plan ?**

Rob:-- As a personal injury lawyer this extension concerns me about the potential for accidents. I support opening the review and having the engineers do a proper study.

Jay:-- I will listen to people but we must do Phase 2 because otherwise we will have wasted \$1 Billion. The LRT will not work without the extension . Yes we need to hear citizen input. If the route is not right I will change it.

Karen:-- The LRT is both a planning tool and a development tool. It is crucial to get traffic off Hwy 401. There has been \$3 Billion in investment for the Phase 1 LRT. The citizen route is worth investigating.

Jan:-- I am in favour of the LRT extension. Routes are always difficult challenges. We must understand early in the process what problem we are trying to solve. Then we must determine if a counter proposal is good or bad and the Region must do this by analysis. I give my word that I will have the citizen proposal looked at.

**Q4- How can the chair & council improve the lines of communication with citizens?**

Jan:--This issue has been around for at least 15 years. Citizens have repeatedly told council that they were asked for opinion too late in the process. To repair this communication gap I propose : 1. First Council must define the problem and then ask for input; 2. We need to have regular Town Hall meetings to hear from citizens ; 3. Committees must hear from citizens and report to Council

Rob:-- One of the big citizen criticisms is that Council does not listen. I believe in Town Hall meetings and have held 11 in this pre-election cycle. As Region Chair I would do at least 10 Town Hall meetings per year to hear citizen input.

Jay:-- My job would be to balance township versus city input.

Karen:-- Building consensus is to bring all Councillors together. We must analyze our efforts. The LRT and safe injection sites issues are good examples of where consensus is needed.

**Q5- Recently we have lost many factories. What is your strategy to keep high end employers?**

Karen:-- When we lost Schneiders and Blackberry we got together & attracted new businesses especially in the high tech sector. We must market key businesses especially agriculture and give them support.

Jan:-- We are privileged because we have a big variety of industries. We must continue to promote diversity of businesses and market this feature.

Rob:-- It is a priority for me. Manufacturing was important for me because I grew up in a working class home and my parents worked in factories. I pushed for economic development when I was a councillor and know we must compete with other cities.

Jay:-- I am stubborn. Free trade will change things and make small factories better. We must educate and train for small factories.

**Q6- Have you looked into testing statistics for opioid sites?**

Rob-I have visited opioid areas in 3 cities. We need to understand why people oppose sites in their part of a city and then work together to find the right place.

Jay:-- I think mobile sites are best- eg Halifax. We need to look at several options.

Karen:-- Safe sites are only part of the solution. We also need social outreach workers who will operate from a known HQ building.

Jan:-- Harm reduction is very important. We need to look at a variety of solutions. We must provide access to a Social Services as well as an injection site