

For North Bay to be the best that it can be, the Northern Region itself needs to be prospering, because we can't do it alone. We exist in a context. The City cannot on its own resist larger, regional realities –demographic, economic, and cultural...

North Bay must foster continued economic and business growth; and it must continue to produce a vibrant Northern community life. For all of this, upper levels of government will need to help resolve the Northern Region's industrial and commercial energy competitiveness, and contribute to resolving our infrastructure deficit. Regionally we need to be strong and united.

Canadore, Nipissing and the Hospital will continue to be significant factors in our municipal economy, along with an expanded industrial base. With increased employment the city has been able to retain most of its youth; this needs to continue, along with attracting more skilled people to North Bay.

One thing that continues to make North Bay great is the spirit of volunteerism, to so many worthwhile groups.

On process, to me the City is much more open and transparent today than eleven years ago. Still, it is my hope that the process by which the city's Operating and Capital budgets are achieved could be more open and responsible. We need better public understanding and engagement in this matter.

Finally, we in Northern Ontario don't need to be reminded by those in the south how important our natural environment is. North Bay will continue to protect the local environment, our home.

Mac Bain