

Jamie Lyle – Oct 21, 2010

Having a plan or vision for North Bay is extremely important. Steps need to be outlined in a proper fashion so that the people that are governing, as well as the community can see for themselves how progress is being made. You must always first identify the problems in order to create and implement the solutions. Some may call having a vision lofty, but I see it as necessary. Great ideas always start with a clear, concise, effective vision. To say that you don't have a vision, in my opinion, is lazy and gives the impression that one lacks ambition, drive and caring for those in the community. I care greatly about my community. That is why I have outlined a 12 step plan for my platform. You can access it at www.bestvotejamielyle.com

2. Communication between all levels of government and the people are vital! We must remember that it is the people that make the decisions for the city and not the other way around! That is the core aspect of democracy in itself. If there is a breakdown in communication, we must eradicate those who are blocking the people's efforts in order to ensure that the people are being heard at all times.

The lack of public consultation has been a recurring concern during the mandate of the last city council, particularly regarding land use decisions for park lands and green space.

I place a high value on public consultation and civic engagement as a city councillor and I have some strategies that I would recommend and support in order for it to take place. It's obvious this council has conducted itself in a way that doesn't represent it's people. I will not do this. I have always been about the people in my reporting days. I know the people are the story and the spirit of the community. And of course the green spaces are where we make our life's memories. As far as public consultation goes, I think that we have to be open with the people in the surrounding areas where we develop, engage them in their needs and desires and respect the quality and standards of their community. I suspect a better Internet presence may be one of the best way to accomplish this goal. This would be done by creating interactive pages laying out proposed designs that people could comment on during their leisure and amnimity. I must add that it was the Tweedsmuir project that made me want to run for council. I was covering it for a story for television and was absolutely appalled by how poorly the council treated it's constituents. I feel that the councils attitudes of forcing silence upon the very people that they represent is something that is inexcusable and must change in the form of a new council that can understand the concerns and needs of the consultants. With regards to this council attempting to take away the cities much needed green space: Otter Lake, Graniteville, Sweetman's Gardens and Tweedsmuir seizure attempts should have never have happened. We need a new council to make sure that this never happens again.

3. Protecting the environment has now become a must, a need, not a want. Our green spaces, our lakes, our trees, our clean air, our health is what truly matters.

The health and economic benefits of urban green space, including parks and trails, bicycle lanes, treed boulevards and community gardens are well proven from the best practises of other cities.

I think that steps needs to be taken in order to enhance and support North Bay's urban green spaces. I see huge room for improvement in all all these proven enhancements to our city. One

area I see that could be improved is the trail system behind Odyssey linking to the pedestrian overpass as well as the bypass. Second, I think we should look at connecting the bike path over to the North gate area and beyond along mud lake road to Wallace Road. I am sure with the escarpment donations there will be many prime locations for parks, trails, bicycle lanes. I am also in support of a community garden. These gardens are popping up all along Canada and the United States and has met with great success.

We also need to have improved safety on North Bay's streets. Speeding is a concern. We need to reduce speed limits, community safety zones and other policies when we change any sort of infrastructure in our city. Speeding is a concern raised by residents throughout the City of North Bay. Numerous studies show a strong co-relation between vehicle speed and the likelihood and severity of injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Traffic calming measures can include reduced speed limits, community safety zones, and other policy or infrastructure changes. I would support speed reductions in order to increase safety for all on North Bay's city streets.

There are many improvements that can be made in the city of North Bay when it comes to safety on the streets. I sometimes wonder why things get so poorly designed so often here. To give you a few examples, there are major blind spots I encounter daily. Laurentian and Trout Lake road being one. McKeown near Champlain is another. Cassells and 7TH Avenue as well as Worthington at Regina. These are only a few. I sometime ago spoke to someone who had suggested to city Hall to open an on line complaint log about areas they perceive as dangerous so that the city could review this data and look at officially upgrading these areas with a view to making them safer. This hasn't happened but that doesn't surprise me knowing how this council simply does not want to know, care or listen to the people it represents.