

Sarah Campbell – Oct 10, 2010

Probably the number one issue... is about A Community Vision...and to move forward on any Vision for this City it needs to be a City wide initiative. This vision requires input from all sectors. Industry, Institutions, Business, Educators, Community, Corporations and Public Services and Community. It should be similar to the break out groups while forming Policy for the New Official Plan, but in this case" A Sustainable Economic Plan....The Vision for North Bay"

For our Community to thrive and survive in a very competitive market, with an ageing demographic, and very minimal birth rate, we must vision and plan where we will be in the next 5, 10, 15 years.. Coupled with a huge number of retirees taking with them intellectual capitol from the work place. The next few years could see communities such as North Bay really struggling to find human resources to fill those industries. The competition will be fierce all over Canada let alone Ontario, and the how will we attract those to North Bay.

We will need to know what are our foundations, to attract those Industries here. What markets do we drive. I have expressed through every opportunity in this campaign that I think Aviation, Health Sciences, Alternate Energy, Advanced Manufacturing and the creation of Centers of Excellence will support our economic sustainability.

Key to this, is Collaborative Action Plan. Bringing everyone to the table to plan. Integration, Work Teams, Data, Educational Curriculum to meet the new economy here in North Bay. I have spoken about our Graduates and the 7.000 students who choose North Bay to get Educated, I feel we need to capture that talent pool and marry them to their education to the Industry and get them into the jobs of the future. You can see more of my thoughts on this at the questions raised at the Nugget.ca and Decision 2010 and the questions posed to the Candidates. 1. What do you think is the number one vision for North Bay. and 2. What is my personal vision for North Bay.

These questions relate to Vision. For this piece is vital which is why I have made it number one for North Bay and Number One for my personal vision.

While every election I have driven home the importance of the environment and the social needs first and second, I am coming to the opinion that quality of life will be about economically sustaining our community in the next two decades. Without jobs and employment in this City we will be in trouble to have a quality of life worth staying for. It is imperative that we work on a Collaborative Vision for this Community. There will be many competing Towns and Cities vying for industry and growth. We have to make our mark and drive, drive, drive to success.

With a huge ageing senior demographic, and minimal birth rate, we really could be in trouble to attract the qualified worker to the Industry. Not only would we be fighting to get them here we could be fighting to keep them here. That's the issue. Industry needs the right, qualified, skilled worker to the industry of the future.

2. Your next question related to Communication and how I will consult with Constituents when there is Controversy.

There is no doubt in my mind that communication has been lacking. If I was to receive in my mail box a planning notice that spoke of putting homes in a park, I would be most upset. The Planning Process may be one way of giving notice but in many cases it is not the right vehicle. It only puts people in a situation of confrontation rather than consultation on a proposed plan.

The process should have followed a notice to residents affected by changes to their neighbourhood to a Public Meeting to listen, consult, address a proposal. In this case the discussion on the ``decommissioning of the ball fields`` That was and should have been the reason the meeting was called. At least a 1,000 notices should have been sent out.

It should have followed a process of communication first. Seeking input from those residents affected. Listening to the views of the all those residents and the team sports and then bringing those concerns back to the Council before it went through any Planning Advisory Process.

In this case even Members of Council were not informed as to what was brought to the Planning Advisory and not informed as to the Covenant. Maybe if a consultation process had been followed it would never have got so many people so upset for being blindsided on what was happening to their park land. And Council members may have been informed more clearly on what was going forward to Planning Advisory and may have learnt about the Covenant before rather than later.

Consultation has been lacking with residents on controversial issues and that is not the way to get consensus or respect of engagement.

Having said all that Democracy has been alive and well for the people have spoken and questioned rightfully and the Council has listened to them and found Compromise or changed plans altogether. City Hall and Councillors are always ready to hear any concerns that the Public bring forward. The Process may be seriously lacking, but listening got things changed or brought compromise. That's important.

For my years on Council I have always responded and listened to the issues and had them addressed. While the ask may not have been granted, a resolution, solution, compromise or reason to deny or support the concerns has been always delivered by me. I make myself available to everyone and I act on calls, emails, discussion from any concerned Citizen it is my job, and I will continue to bring forward the need to consult.

Environment. A passion of mine for over 20 years to get people engaged at how important the environment is. I am proud to say that this last Council was as balanced a Council as I have seen on addressing not just the Economic, but the Social and the Environmental as any of my 13 years on Council. I hope I instilled in them the need to get engaged for I seek opportunity and discussion when ever I believe it is the right moment. Getting those who make so many important decisions on Council to get respect for the environmental and the social cause was a mission of mine.

Bringing in Green industries.

The former Council were all united on a Green Plan and they should continue to always look to find ways to lessen the carbon footprint. Issues of global warming and low water levels, blue green algae, smog days, ultraviolet increases are of concern for us all.

Constant vigilance on the issues of the environment is a must and we must continue with seeking ways to think environmentally, act environmentally and seek alternatives to all of the impacts on the environment that human life creates. Every step one takes to mitigate the impact on the environment is a step in the right direction.

Finally on every platform I have spoken about my values....that I am a firm believer in protecting our Children's right of Inheritance, to clean air, water and land and creating a better quality of life for all Citizens of North Bay.

That has been a constant message delivered from 1997 to this election 2010...and still I repeat that message. I can deliver on that, and have throughout my years on Council in every avenue on the many and various Committees of which I have sat for so many years bringing home the importance to make solid environmental decisions, to drive that message home.