

Questions for all Candidates: Steven Byvelds

In order to get specific information about candidate's views on support of volunteers in South Dundas, I am asking that all candidates provide responses to the following questions – rating each question from 1 to 10 – (where 1 is strongly disagree and will not support, to 10 – strongly agree and will support as a high priority if I am elected).

1. There is an important requirement for **proactive** support to volunteers from the Municipality - both from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and elected Council Members – and from Municipal Management and employees.

Candidate Response: [10] I will commit to supporting volunteer efforts as they do the work to make our community stronger

2. There is a requirement for a formal process to consider and approve Volunteer Projects along with other Council business at regularly scheduled meetings. This will legitimize and better recognize Volunteer Activities as an important part of Community business.

Candidate Response: [10] It certainly can be part of a formal council agenda. I would like to see any projects to be considered in council's hands in a timely manner for consideration by council at the next meeting.

3. Municipal Government should provide proactive encouragement, help and support through all phases of approved volunteer projects, including prompt acknowledgement and replies for volunteer queries and requests for help.

Candidate Response: [10] We need to work with our volunteers to ensure they can do what needs to be done. Staff and council will acknowledge their needs on a timely basis for this to occur.

4. The new Council should designate, appoint and announce **Volunteer Ambassadors** (Council & Municipal Management) to represent the interests of community volunteers.

Candidate Response: [10] Having council and staff representatives to deal with and ensure the volunteers have the support they need to do their work will ensure the work will be done on a timely basis.

5. A **Volunteer News and Information** section should be added to the Municipal website.

Candidate Response: [10] This should be easy to do and it will help those involved, and the public, to know what is happening in South Dundas.

6. The Municipality will explore direct municipal funding of Third Party Liability Insurance for "Normal" low risk approved volunteer projects. This could drastically reduce the need for volunteer groups doing it themselves directly – with a simple, easy and quick approval process. This will address a major volunteer headache and discouragement issue – likely at low cost to taxpayers.

Candidate Response: [10] It is time that we deal with this insurance issue head on. Other municipalities do so and South Dundas can also do so by providing either the funds to purchase insurance or better still, blanket coverage.

7. In Council's consideration of Volunteer Proposals looking for Approval, Council will make every effort to give a prompt and clear directive to next steps required and who is responsible and when.

Candidate Response: [10] There will be a process to follow that will be simple and allow all involved to know who does what and how things will get done on a timely basis.

In conclusion, South Dundas council and staff need to work with our volunteers. We need them as they play a vital part in how our community functions and is formed. If elected, I will commit to working with them and their organizations to make South Dundas a better place to live. I also will look at bringing back Volunteer Appreciation Nights that seem to have disappeared in the last four years. As much as the volunteers do not want anything for their efforts, I believe a night of dinner and socializing is a small thing council can do to recognize their efforts.