

Introduction by Jo-Anne Platts at the All Candidate's Evening October 6, 2022

Bonsoir, good evening, hello everyone, Aaniin.

My name is Jo-Anne Platts.

Thank you residents, Mayor O'Mara and fellow candidates for being here this evening.

It's encouraging to see so many people in attendance either in person or via zoom or facebook.

That tells me there is a keen interest in the future state of Temagami and I hope it translates to the number people who vote in this municipal election. I would like to thank the Temagami and District Chamber of Commerce for hosting this important event tonight.

I hope you received and read the letter I sent to all permanent and seasonal residents last month. So I'll spend the short time I have with you this evening highlighting some information that was not in my mailout.

My husband and I are Permanent Residents of Temagami because we love this region and we love this community and we're planning to retire in the next few years. I currently work for the Ontario Government and have done so for most, but not all, of my career.

I've worked in a number of Ministries including the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, where I am currently employed, and the ministries of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, Transportation and the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology.

As a Senior Business Services Manager, my strengths, knowledge & experience are in the areas of Business and Operational Planning and Financial Management.

In all the positions I've held, the scope of my responsibility has been provincial. In other words, I've been responsible for the oversight of province-wide service delivery and provided support in the areas of finance, purchasing, facilities and information management.

So I'm familiar with the challenges of serving the needs of diverse communities such as the Francophonie, First Nations and rural populations, in a large geographic area.

These characteristics and challenges are very similar to those in the region of Temagami. My background, skills and experience are an ideal fit to oversee the administration, budgeting and planning processes of our municipality.

As you likely know, the Municipality of Temagami's Official Plan, our Official Plan, is in the approval process. The plan establishes a framework to guide land use and physical development across the region.

So why is this important and what does it have to do with this election?

Well, if you elect me as Councillor, over the next four years, I will ensure that the vision, objectives and policies, that you were engaged in developing, and that are reflected in the Official Plan, are realized and at the forefront of municipal planning decisions.

Those decisions will effectively integrate the natural environment and economic and social needs.

The region of Temagami and Lake Temagami itself is a Naturalist's paradise renowned for its pristine wilderness and clear clean water. As residents, this is something we all know and treasure. Continuing to protect old growth vegetation and the Skyline Reserve is critical to maintaining the landscape, nature tourism and recreation. If elected Councillor, I will support economic development that is sustainable and conducted without depleting our natural resources.

Regarding our urban environment, it's frightening to see businesses close in downtown Temagami. I've spoken to many residents who have said that "The town feels like it's been slowly dying and we need to do something to turn it around". A vibrant and financially resilient town, year-round, is beneficial to everyone including permanent and seasonal residents and our First Nation partners. If you elect me as Councillor I will work to revitalize, promote and support businesses throughout the region and in Temagami's downtown core.

These past two and half years have been hard on businesses and families across the region. Covid-19 and the increase in the cost of living is impacting all of us. To get through these challenging times we need a Municipal Council that can work effectively together for the benefit of everyone, because we are - better together!

I am fair, impartial and objective and I don't have an allegiance to any one particular group over another. I'm currently a member of the Municipal Council having been

appointed to a vacancy. I presented to Council and was selected by the members themselves, so they must have seen my potential and I'm hoping that you do too.

Please vote for me in this municipal election so we can all be – better together!

Thank you, Merci, Miigwech.