

For MAYOR: Andrey Kaminski Learn, Belong and Become

Throughout this campaign, it has been a privilege to speak with so many residents of our community and hear about the issues that matter to them. It has been an amazing experience to be able to speak with them about the future of our home. It is so important to have these conversations so that we can move forward and tackle the issues that need to be dealt with so we can make our community even better. During my campaign, I have learned many things. I have tremendous respect for all the candidates running as we move toward the October 22nd election. In my campaign, I've talked about the strong foundations of our community, built by previous generations through hard work and determination – and how we will build on those foundations. People in this room have helped to build that foundation, and we need to talk about how to support them in what they do. That's why I talked about working with the federal and provincial government and business to push for seniors' community housing projects, so that seniors, who might have a hard time keeping up their old family homes, can move to housing that better meets their needs and remain such an important part of our community. It's also why I talked about the importance of supporting our volunteer fire fighters. Without them putting themselves on the line to help protect us, where would we be? We need to make sure they have the resources and training and support they need to do the very demanding job. I appreciate the service that they provide. I don't stand behind our firefighters – I stand with them. Part of the foundation of our community is, of course, our beautiful, natural environment. I've talked about the importance of protecting our environment, which will benefit us all. I am interested in positive change and good growth that showcases our beautiful area so it can reach its full potential. We do not want to make mistakes at the expense of our natural beauty. Let's keep Madawaska Valley beautiful.

Now we need to build on that strong foundation of our community and work hard to make sure there are opportunities here at home for young men and women to build their lives and families, and not have to move to Toronto or Ottawa or out West. I believe that Council should step up and make sure we are providing the incentives and support for businesses to start here, locate here, and grow here. With rising costs, we, as a Council, need to find the most viable solutions to attract, grow and sustain businesses here. I've talked about the importance of tourism to our community. The truth is, we need more tourism. I've suggested creating a more festive year-round atmosphere, including bringing back a fall fair to help attract visitors and celebrate what our region has to offer. I've looked into what we would need to hold a Yuk Yuks comedy festival or blues and jazz festival on a small scale, and we have the locations and resources to do it. These efforts aren't expensive and they create a sense of community and draw visitors to our community and encourage cottagers and others to come back for extra visits. We have such a treasure of recreational, cultural, and artistic opportunities available – and a natural beauty that other regions envy. Our beautiful environment and our cultural and artistic activities offer potential opportunities that we need to tap into. In addition to summer weather that draws visitors, we have the fall colours, maple syrup in spring – and we have pristine snowmobile trails that are second to none for potential winter tourism. It's time for us to celebrate and showcase what we have available – to help attract new businesses and help create the opportunities we need for our communities and the people who live here. Consensus building is one of my strengths. I believe in brainstorming and listening to new ideas. I have had an open door policy

throughout this campaign and, if I have the honour of being elected, I will have that same open door as your Mayor.

A successful leader needs to have vision, experience and wisdom. Common sense should be exercised during all discussions.

Being able to make decisions that benefit all the people is difficult, however making sound educated ones must be priority.

Each community may have different needs which we can provide attention to.

Each community should work together so we do not duplicate our efforts. As Mayor I do have vision, I am educated, I firmly believe our staff is the foundation of our Municipality, and the work they do is presented for our review. We as council must not interfere with staff. With good staff becomes a good leader, so I plan to keep our Council focused on the betterment of Madawaska Valley and the people who reside here.

It has been a real pleasure speaking with so many of you over the last few months as part of the election campaign – whether in person, over the phone, at your door, at events, or through these columns. I have been very pleased to see how interested people have been in these columns and very much appreciate all the great responses and feedback. Over the course of the campaign, we have talked about many important issues. As we head into the final stretch, I thought I should go over some of the things we have discussed: I talked about the importance of tourism to our community and suggested creating a more festive year-round atmosphere, including bringing back a fall fair to help attract visitors and celebrate what our region has to offer. I talked about the important role played by our volunteer Fire Department and what we can do to ensure they have the resources that they need to protect us all. I talked about the important role played by township staff. I talked about environmental issues, such as garbage collection, invasive species, watershed protection, etc. I talked about the importance of our library, arts and community centre, and the role of the Railway Station. I discussed the key role that volunteers play in the Barry's Bay minor hockey association. I talked about the importance of our seniors and how we need to address their unique housing needs, as well as the need to ensure that there are opportunities here at home for our youth, so they can build a life and family here. I have talked about the importance of all our Heritages. It has been a privilege to be part of this campaign and to talk with so many of you about the issues facing our community. If elected as your Mayor I hope these important conversations continue after October 22nd.