



Deborah Kiezebrink - Candidate for Councillor Ward 4

Tell us your personal interests:

1) How have the arts been a part of your life?

My bachelor of arts degree (1988) included a major in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Vocal Performance. While I'm not as artistic as my mom Fern or my daughter Racquel who can both draw and paint with expert ease, my artistic sense came out more through music, interior design, creative writing and digital media. Over the years I've written and recorded my own contemporary gospel inspirational music, and have also sung backup vocals for various clients or performing groups, or sung for events like London Gospel Temple's Christmas Broadcast on CFPL TV London. For a while I worked at Rogers TV in Oshawa as a volunteer helping to do the "Medical Minute". Whether it was working at CFOS Radio writing and recording radio commercials and jingles years ago, or designing décor and wedding details today for our clients at Nestleton Waters Inn, or whether it is sitting with my coffee in the morning and writing poetry for my "Sunrise Muses" facebook page, I have a great appreciation for how art moves, inspires, and brings us together!

2) Can you please describe the ways in which you personally are currently involved in or are a supporter of the arts and culture in our community?

My family's business Nestleton Waters Inn has been an avid supporter of the arts in Scugog. When we first opened we featured local art on our walls for travelling guests to enjoy and purchase. (Soon we hope to launch our country store where we can feature local art more visibly). We've donated overnight stays for two at the inn to help raise funds for Scugog Council for the Arts. We cross promote various local arts and culture events on our business Facebook page, have brought out of town guests to attend performances at Town Hall 1873, have attended the Mayor's Gala for the Arts, and have invited the Scugog Council's juried arts winners to be featured at our inn when there was a party being hosted for international guests during the Pan Am games, and Scugog Council for the Arts has been the first link on our inn's website's attractions page since our business opened I think! <http://www.nestletonwatersinn.com/attractions>

3) What, if any, future involvement are you interested in?

As a member of the Scugog Economic Development Committee (since 2013), and the Tourism Sub-Committee (since '15), I was part of the tourism task force who (facilitated by Central Counties Tourism) worked to create the Scugog Community Tourism Plan that was just approved by Scugog Council in 2018. According to our report in 2014, 5.2 million visitors came to Durham Region. For Scugog it's key that we tap into our potential with all these visitors. Our task force recognized that there are some key tourism assets that we have in Scugog:

- 1) unique attractions (i.e. Greenbelt Cycling route, Durham Farm Fresh and agri-tourism, Mississauga's of Scugog Island First Nation)
- 2) arts and culture (i.e. Scugog Council for the Arts, Scugog Heritage Centre, Meta4, Kent Farndale Gallery, Town Hall 1873, and our theatre groups including Borelians, Scugog Choral Society, Theatre on the Ridge, Queen Street Scugog's Heritage Conservation District, Historic Agricultural Fair)
- 3) boating and marina
- 4) sports and recreation.

We are thrilled that with Scugog's very first budget allocated for the Economic Development and Advisory Committee to implement for their Tourism Strategy as Action Items of the Scugog Community Tourism Plan. We also have helping to put "boots on the ground" for the tourism

work we'd like to do, Erin Wakely who is Scugog's first Tourism Program Coordinator! This is our first time to get budget from the Region for this and I trust we will keep Erin busy and earn the continuation of this valued and needed support moving forward! I am very excited about our momentum and the opportunities to better support arts and culture in Scugog!

Tell us what you plan to do as a member of Council in the coming term:

4) How do you see your role on Council being of help to artists, performers, writers, musicians and artisans in our community?

As reported in the Toronto Star "Seven Ways to Support Artists" (Bruce Demara Jan 9/09) Canada's "arts and culture sector accounted for \$84.6 billion in economic activity in 2007, or 7.4 per cent of real Gross Domestic Product, and employed 1.1 million Canadians directly and indirectly." Our arts and culture community are key to our economic viability within the context of our tourism actions moving forward. Council is there to help craft policy, and this takes listening and understanding the needs of constituents and then formulating and walking out plans to implement any changes. I believe my role on Council will be: listening to the artistic community's needs, researching, presenting options, together with the artistic community formulating solutions, and advocating for the implementation of those solutions.

5) How do you see your role on Council being of help to arts organizations such as our theatre companies, artist associations and tours, writing clubs and the Scugog Council for the Arts? Same as previous. Thriving arts and culture in a rural community like Scugog where agricultural endeavors can be seasonal and where the success of our combined economic viability whether in business or services, is derived in part from the tourism activities engendered by arts and culture, means this sector needs to be important to Council, and to me.

I think it's key to do what we can to:

- SUPPORT: fund arts and culture (i.e. help facilitate access to Ontario Arts Council grant program and any other funds that might be available)
- PROMOTE: continue to find new ways to display/feature art and artists (i.e. maybe incentives to lease cultural spaces in their buildings, take every occasion to include them in festivities and events)
- ATTRACT: help feature our arts and culture in the most creative ways as this influences our visitors and makes them repeat visitors (i.e. continue to preserve our heritage properties).

Tell us your vision for arts and culture in Scugog:

6) Assuming that you think arts and culture are important to the quality of life of our citizens and visitors, can you tell us how you think our municipal government might do things differently, better or in a special way to support and promote the arts in Scugog?

- Beef up the Arts and Culture page on our Township Website and have direct links from this home page to websites that have various listings and promotions so that people don't have to dig too far to find exciting things to see and do in Scugog.

- Change the Events Calendar to better feature all Scugog events.

* For example our Community, Recreation, and Leisure Calendar says "No Events available for August" yet

* Ward 4 celebrated Lake Scugog Regatta in Caesarea starting Fri Aug 3rd, a truly milestone event, given it was their 90th celebration!

* Palmer Park along with Puckrin & Latreille was hosting movie nights in the park starting Wed Aug 8th!

* Lake Week Celebrations were on and the Scugog Lake Stewards presented "Secrets of Lake Scugog" Sun Aug 19th!

* Scugog Library has all kinds of events going on including concerts, Zoomer Tech Club, Movie Nights, Summer Reading Club, Story Strolls!

* Immaculate Conception Catholic Church had a car wash for Operation Scugog on Aug 25th!

* Summer Camp at Camp Scugog was underway!

* Pioneer Day was at Scugog Museum Aug 26th!

- We have all kinds of amazing things happening all year. You should be able to stroll through a year at a glance and see what's happening and plan your trip or adventure when you're on our website! So I'd like to see us do a better job of communicating all of this!
- On the other hand, the Township of Scugog's facebook page has lots of current updates! Nice to see! And their Tourism E-Newsletter is amazing! I'd like to see it get out there more!

7) There is no mention of arts or culture in the Township's current strategic plan. In the department plan for Recreation there is a mention of specific assets such as the Scugog Shores Museum, Town Hall 1873 and the Kent Farndale Gallery but nothing about supporting arts or culture programming, organizations or any other spaces. Most references in the plan are around the historical aspects of culture rather than anything contemporary. What vision do you have for our government's help in the development of an arts community?

I believe that we are moving forward in a healthy way. We have an incredible community that attracts an enormous amount of visitors on a repeat basis. Nestleton Waters Inn guests continuously comment on how this area is such a hidden gem. They love the boutique shopping, the idyllic lake setting, the rural countryside and farms, the museums, theatre, casino, festivals, art, brewery, winery, gelato, chocolate, music, fairs, cycling, snowmobiling, fishing, and so much more! We have a huge opportunity to both explore the broader exposure of our arts and culture and to also be seen as the place to live if you want to create your craft! Look at all the artists who've successfully lived and worked here!

* Bill Lishman award winning sculptor, inventor, naturalist, etc. who was featured in "Fly Away Home" that was partially filmed in Scugog, as well as Paula Lishman creator of the original knit fur

* Taylor Landry singer songwriter

* Jimmy Frise one of Canada's leading cartoonists

* Lynn McDonald jazz singer and professor

* Lake Scugog Studio Tour, Meta4 gallery, and Scugog Council for the arts, feature many many local artists...

Honestly, having just approved our Scugog Community Tourism Plan, having instituted an initial budget, and having just hired a Scugog Tourism Coordinator, we're definitely on our way, but there's no question we have a lot of work to do to better help and develop our arts community. I would love the honor of being the Ward 4 Councillor and taking a more active role. Either way I will continue to work on the Tourism Sub-Committee and on EDAC and in my business, to promote arts and culture!

8) Can you tell us your beliefs about any financial benefits or impact the arts have on our community?

The Ontario Arts Council's tag line is "Remarkable public value. Remarkable public impact." I agree. They report "arts and culture in Ontario directly contribute \$25.7 billion annually to the provincial economy... In a 2010 survey of 18 mid-sized Ontario cities, all municipalities reported using cultural and recreational amenities as a tool for downtown revitalization...80% of Ontarians agree that an active local arts scene helps communities attract business...Arts and culture tourists spend more and stay longer...spends twice as much as a typical tourist."

Tell us your vision for The Mill:

9) Do you believe that the Mill on our waterfront is important to our cultural heritage and should be developed in conjunction with those in our community who have arts and culture interests?

Port Perry's George Currie Elevator is "Canada's Oldest Grain Elevator", the oldest and most significant wood bin elevator as reported on Scugog Heritage.com. Scugog purchased it in 2009 allowing Scugog to retain control over what happens to the waterfront lands. Scugog has a waterfront revitalization project to both enhance the waterfront area, and to redevelop the Old Mill and surrounding waterfront lands including the Latcham Centre and marina. Recently there

was a “market sounding” exercise to see what interest was out there by the public sector to restore and repurpose the Old Mill. We are on the right track to protect our waterfront and make its development and improvement a critical and well thought out process. I’m excited to see what opportunities are ahead of us to both protect and promote our heritage, our arts and culture and to inspire the public to participate with us in our unique and memorable community of Scugog!