



David LeRoy - Candidate for Councillor Ward 1

Tell us your personal interests:

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

The arts are an important part of my life, crossing a broad spectrum of my interests. My hobbies include painting (oils) and music (I play the fiddle, bagpipes, banjo and piano), and more broadly, visiting museums, art galleries, cultural sites, travel and theatre. I would also include within the spectrum of arts my interests and skills in traditional craftwork, such as stone masonry, post and beam joinery and heritage building restoration. In addition, I started my career in a cultural industry – film and television, working for what is now Telefilm Canada, and then a documentary production company.

- 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?

I am currently involved with a local fiddle group and play the bagpipes with the Uxbridge Legion Pipe Band. I am also a regular attendee of our various arts festivals and art tours.

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

If elected Ward 1 Councillor, arts promotion will be a key component of my perspective on tourism and economic development.

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?

I see my role as one of advocate for the arts community, and for promotion of the arts and related creative enterprises in Scugog.

- 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?

I will ensure Council continues to understand the importance of the arts in our community as a generator of economic activity, and as a source of enrichment and pride for community as a whole.

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?

I believe the role of our municipal government should be to facilitate arts activity in the township by more actively recognizing and promoting arts and culture as a valuable attribute and

differentiator of this community, and as a valuable asset for attracting additional tourism and cultural activity.

- 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?

Arts and culture should be a key component of strategic planning. Scugog needs to compete on its strengths, one of which is its arts community. Creative industries are growth industries. The future of Scugog lies in our ability to best leverage our talent in these fields.

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

The importance of the arts for the local community goes beyond financial returns. The fact of the matter is that people desire to live in desirable communities, and cultural activity is a necessary condition for desirability. A vibrant arts community has a multitude of positive impacts on tourism and business development opportunities, and overall quality of life for our region.

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?

The Old Mill is the most important public asset in Port Perry. In many ways, the future success of the town depends on the creative re-use of the mill, restoring it to the commercial center of the town, as it originally was.

10) If so, describe a viable vision:

Port Perry developed because of its access to water. But over time, the town began to forget that it was, in fact, a waterfront community. Poor planning and policy choices resulted in some missed opportunities and inappropriate development. Luckily, it is not too late to reverse course, and some work has been done to this effect in terms of landscaping and ongoing planning and consultation. The Mill is one part – though an important one – of an overall vision that should include increased waterfront dining, retail and hotel/guest accommodation. A review of adjacent facilities and park/boardwalk infrastructure should also be included in part of the overall experience we wish to create for our residents and guests.