



Tell us your personal interests:

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

The arts have definitely been a huge part of my life, as a child I was a competitive figure skater until the age of 15. This discipline and creative outlet taught me many life lessons. With my children, my oldest daughter was a local competitive dancer, and my youngest participated in workshops at Meta 4, she was an avid knitter and attended groups at Never Enough Wool. I have attended many of the performances of the Scugog Choral Society. My brother –in-law is a regular producer at the Town Hall Theatre – Bill Culp Productions. I regularly enjoy visiting the exhibits at the Kent Farndale Gallery at our beautiful Library.

- 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 attend many performances and concerts at the Town Hall Theatre. My husband and I enjoy the annual Gala for the Arts. My husband has also assisted with operating the lighting systems at Town Hall performances.

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

My plan moving forward would be to maintain my current level of support/involvement however, if there is something additional that I could be of assistance with I would definitely help out.

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 strongly believe in the value of the arts in our community. The Arts promote our local talent, stimulate our economy by bringing people into our area, who in turn frequent our restaurants and explore our community as a whole. I will gladly attend and promote all that the Council for the arts is offering. I will be a voice to the benefits of having such an organization in our community and how it contributes to expanding the culture and well-being of the community.

- 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?

Given my personal experience involvement with the arts throughout my life I can whole heartedly advocate for the benefits of having all aspects of an Arts Council in our community. The arts promote health, wellness and a well-rounded community accepting of the uniqueness and diverse talents of its members and members from afar who come to perform and bring our community together.

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?

First, I would commend those that have helped build a wonderful arts community here, we have a beautiful theatre, accessible galleries in two locations at the Municipal building and the Library. There are a number of shows throughout the year promoting local talent, and the Old Town Hall has a full slate of shows running at any given time that are very well attended. I will gladly be a strong voice for the Arts Council however, and welcome the opportunity to attend a board meeting and hear the organizations vision for Scugog and bring those ideas to council.

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 truly believe that we need to be promoting the Arts as a municipality. In the Township's seasonal recreation guides we should be offering and promoting artistic classes, activities for our younger people and youth. This will stimulate the passion at a young age and carry on to being our future performers, artists, council for the arts members. We need to promote these activities for the general population at a rate that all members can afford to access. Often times the Arts and opportunities to participate comes at a huge cost for families and no doubt a lot of untapped talent is lost because of this. My vision to achieve these goals is through partnerships. One way might be to leverage some of the talent and support from our wonderful local colleges. We have persons from afar that recognize our theatre groups and benefit from participating with them, despite the travel involved.

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

The financial benefits for the community are that it brings people to our beautiful community, stimulates the economy by them shopping in our stores, dining in our restaurants, discovering all that Scugog has to offer and it potentially brings new residents to our community as a result of their experience. Perhaps equally, or even more critically however, is the importance of engaging and exposing our young people, our children to a wide array of the arts. Young persons who are engage in healthy pastimes are far less likely to end up in contact with the justice or social systems. The arts community helps provide them with a stronger sense of belonging and attachment to community, which is a critical consideration today. These young person's grow up to the type of leaders our community needs in the future.

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?

10) If so, describe a viable vision:

I strongly believe that the Mill should not be redeveloped into something that will exclude the majority of Scugog citizens for the future impacting access to the waterfront for all. It should not become an exclusive condominium development. What it should become is a vibrant hub for the entire community to access. Something along the lines of a multi-purpose, self-sustaining enterprise through municipal and private partnership. The vision would include but not be limited to; arts, recreation, historical, educational and commercial enterprise(s) that support and lend themselves to enhancing the waterfront and being a place for all to access and enjoy.