

Ward 4 Candidate Q&A: Ward 4 candidates answer questions from Paris Independent readers

CASANDRA TURNBULL

Managing Editor

All certified ward 4 candidates were contacted and invited to participate in this Q&A. Each candidate was provided with the same set of questions, which were developed from submissions received from Paris Independent readers. The goal is to give voters an opportunity to compare candidates' perspectives on the same issues and learn more about how each would approach the role of county councillor.

We encourage readers to continue engaging with candidates throughout the election campaign. Those who have follow-up questions, concerns or would like to learn more about a candidate and their platform can find candidate contact information through the County of Brant's certified candidate's webpage: <https://www.brant.ca/council-and-county-administration/elections/certified-candidates/>

The Paris Independent's candidate Q&A coverage continues in next week's edition with candidates running in Ward 5.

COREY DONN



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

Brant residential growth has been taking place at an overwhelming pace. Applications are outpacing infrastructure needed to service them and are in some instances being applied for without knowing if the existing service has the capacity to even provide for new development.

As per our Official Plan, 80% of all growth is expected to happen in Paris, St. George and Burford. Which will directly affect my ward and myself as I live in Burford. Development should be slowed and carefully considered, without appropriate servicing capacity it will fall on the ratepayers throughout the county to make up the difference as development charges don't cover the cost required to build appropriate infrastructure. Restricting the rate at which major development projects take place will allow critical infrastructure to keep pace and not cause unrealistic property tax in-

crease. I'm not against appropriate growth, it just has to be implemented at a realistic rate that we can afford, and doesn't sacrifice our rural identity.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

As we are all blatantly aware, Paris has been engulfed in construction for many seasons and now that 5 story structures are being amended into our official plan, it will put even more pressure on parking, access and infrastructure. Just as I worry about the rural identity of my ward's communities, Paris too is subject to losing its historic small downtown feel due to over development. When new limits are set it can turn into a "give an inch they take a mile" situation.

That being said, possible benefits of allowing higher residential intensification would improve foot traffic at local business and more investment in the local economy. It would fall inline with the Provinces mandate to build housing and increase the tax base for the municipality.

I acknowledge the challenges of developing this in a thoughtful way that will not greatly impact the surrounding residents and small businesses. Thorough public consultation is an utmost requirement if any development can be undertaken in good faith.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

Greater access to affordable public swimming facilities would be an asset to the county. Not only is it a valuable skill, but it is also a great way to keep healthy at any age, and a low barrier to be enjoyed by all. I realize that being in Southern Ontario affords us limited time to swim in the outdoors and that an indoor facility would benefit many. However, I can't justify the \$38-\$49 million projected cost without major funding from the province or some other grant. An additional outdoor facility could be entertained depending on cost. The financial pressures of increasing property tax would dissuade me from supporting this until the expense becomes more viable.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Public transit throughout the county only

exists via Brant Transit. While it may be cost efficient for its users, it isn't a realistic answer for those who do not have access to a vehicle for employment or need for transportation for last minute appointments. I would like to see the program expanded to cover daily set scheduled routes between Paris and many of our communities. I would also like to explore if a Go Transit station built in Paris at the 403 would be wanted by the public.

To fund this additional cost, advocating to the provincial or federal government would be required to see if any program funding is available so as to not burden the ratepayer.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

As mentioned previously, I do believe we can expand our existing transit infrastructure to help bridge our transit needs. By expanding our existing fleet of vehicles, we can offer regular scheduled transit routes. Creating reliable transportation would allow for greater employment opportunities and flexibility when scheduling appointments for those without transportation.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The Brantford airport and surrounding land boundary adjustment was poorly timed, given very limited public consultation and was seen to be a rushed annexation by many, which I believe didn't sit well with many residents of the County of Brant or Brantford.

Direction by the Province required a good faith negotiation between the County and the City. My concerns in any upcoming negotiations would be ensuring public consultation. Are residences that are being affected properly shielded from large property tax adjustments? How many years would it take to make up lost tax revenue? What are the effects on our long-term financial plan? Is the County actually receiving a fair deal?

Regardless, any negotiation would have to be conducted transparently to guarantee that the public knows the complete story.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I grew up in a family that specialized in Pile Driving, installing foundation piling and shoring that is required in most bridges and some large commercial/industrial construction. While working in this industry I have estimated, organized and executed many large contracts while coordinating with numerous other trades, Municipalities, the Ministry of Transportation, demanding timeliness and harsh en-

vironmental conditions. This was at times an extremely demanding operation that had large financial implications if not complete on time and within budget.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Absolutely. They are a waste of agricultural land. The water usage, noise pollution, unwanted energy demands and environmental impact are all greatly concerning. I do not see any contribution they would provide to our communities.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long-Term Financial Plan should be one of the most important guiding tools for any decision that involves any major unforeseen financial impacts. Without adhering to this plan, keeping the County financially viable becomes difficult. Aging critical infrastructure needs rehabilitation and replacement. Debt needs to be serviced; Services need to be maintained. Growth has to be paid for without undue burden on the existing ratepayers. Unrestrained spending will only drive-up property taxes to cover for improper spending. Being fiscally responsible is the only path to getting critical infrastructure funded and keeping property tax at a reasonable rate.

ELAINE TULLY



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

The County has already committed to significant residential growth, with hundreds of new homes approved for both Paris and St. George. Those commitments cannot be changed, so it is essential that

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the pace of construction be slow enough for infrastructure to be fully in place before building begins. Because the County has already met the growth targets required by the Province, I would resist any further large-scale residential development and keep all future growth strictly within existing settlement boundaries.

The rural character of Ward 4 is an important part of the County's identity. I would work to preserve it by avoiding major residential expansion and focusing development where services already exist. Future decisions should prioritize infrastructure readiness, long-term sustainability, and protection of rural land.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I believe residential development in the core of Paris can keep the downtown vital and thriving. Businesses will be strengthened by a core of local consumers, and not have to depend solely on tourists and people driving in from outside downtown. The neighbourhood bonds among residents could also potentially drive additional occasional events and celebrations providing yet another draw to downtown.

The challenge could be the keeping of the character of traditional Paris. Skilled architects and planners will be needed to design and landscape to honour the traditional style and feel that local people treasure.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I would definitely support the development of an indoor public swimming pool in Brant. Council has already begun exploring options and costs, and I would like to see the process continue. A public pool, being something that all residents can use regardless of age or ability, definitely will benefit our residents. Ongoing public input opportunities will be key in the process.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I don't see an urban-type transit model being feasible in the County of Brant, where there are regular routes and constant service. I would prefer to further develop and refine the existing Brant Transit program as detailed in question 5.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Improving transportation in the County of Brant requires a coordinated, modernized approach that strengthens connections among Paris, Burford, Scotland, St.

George, rural areas, and Brantford. The existing Brant Transit program is a strong foundation, but it needs upgrades to meet growing demand.

Introducing Uber-style technology for booking and real-time ride tracking would make the service more reliable and user-friendly. Collaboration with neighbouring counties with transit operations—Oxford, Haldimand, and Norfolk—would help identify successful rural transit models that could be adapted locally. Finally, ongoing user and non-user surveys through the County website would ensure the system evolves with community needs.

Together, these steps would create a more accessible, efficient, and responsive transportation network for all residents.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

Any discussion about a boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport should only resume once both newly elected councils are in place and able to determine whether the paused process from August should continue.

My priority would be protecting workable farmland, which remains one of the County's most valuable long-term assets. Financial implications must also be carefully balanced so that any proposal benefits both municipalities.

Ideally, Brant and Brantford should work together directly—without external authorities—to explore options collaboratively. Before supporting any agreement, I would insist on a clear, detailed framework that outlines the purpose, impacts, and responsibilities of each party.

Most importantly, residents must have ample opportunity for meaningful public input before any decision is made.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

Throughout my 17-year career designing and selling playgrounds, I regularly worked with diverse committees, municipal teams, and community groups who evaluated proposals from many angles. These presentations often came with challenging questions, but those conversations always led to stronger outcomes. Collaboration was essential—I would present an initial concept, then work with the group to refine it until we reached the best possible design for their needs.

As the designer and project manager, my role was to create a proposal that scored highly in formal evaluations, respond quickly with modifications that reflected the purchasers' priorities, and then guide the project through manufacturing and installation. Keeping all parties aligned, informed, and moving toward the agreed timeline and design was critical. By fostering open dialogue and adapting thoughtfully, I delivered playgrounds that met community expectations and were completed smoothly and successfully.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratori-

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um on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Certainly there is a trend for municipalities to impose a moratorium, and I would agree to one. Whether or not that were the case, Council must begin preparations for the potential eventuality of being approached to build a data center. There is MUCH to be learned about data centres, especially given the concerning information to date about the power and water requirements and noise. Among many other issues, data centres will not meet the employment density criteria of the County. I would certainly not support having any data centre in the County.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a critical skeleton guide to help council set priorities and make decisions.

Every new priority and investment must be held up to the LTFP to weigh its merits. That said, council may also need to amend the plan in the event of an unforeseen expense or new priority. It remains an absolute responsibility of council, however, to be diligent financial managers. We need to safeguard our fiscal position and ensure Brant lives within its means.

HEATHER KEAM



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

Growth has already been planned for the County of Brant, and I believe we need to move from reacting to growth to intentionally planning for it. This is not simply about roads, infrastructure or where housing goes; it is also about the social and cultural identity of our communities. Each village, hamlet and rural area has its own history, character, strengths and priorities.

I would like to see communities actively involved in defining what they value, what they want to protect and what they want their community to become. We can then look across the County to understand what we share and where communities are unique. This approach allows us to welcome opportunities while being intention-

al about what makes the County of Brant a place people are proud to call home. Growth should not simply happen to our communities. We should be helping shape what they become.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

Downtown residential development can bring real benefits. More people living downtown can support businesses, restaurants and services, create more activity in the core and provide additional housing in an established community. But growth needs to be planned before it arrives. We must understand the impacts on traffic, parking, infrastructure, emergency services and other municipal services, rather than trying to catch up after development is built. We also need to consider how new buildings fit with the character of downtown Paris.

My concern is not growth itself but growth happening faster than the community can prepare for it. The question I would be asking is what do we need to have in place today so that five or ten years from now people are still saying that this was the right way to grow. Good planning means preparing for the people and community that development will bring.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I support access to affordable swimming and recreation opportunities. A pool is not just the cost of building it; it requires ongoing staffing, maintenance, repairs and replacement. With significant infrastructure and other community priorities ahead of us, we need to be realistic about what we can afford and what residents are willing to invest in and pay for. I would want to understand how many residents would use a new facility, what existing options are available and whether there are opportunities to work with other organizations.

I would also explore ways to expand swimming opportunities beyond a new pool, including partnerships and safe access to natural spaces where appropriate. My goal would be to ensure residents have opportunities to swim and be active while making a responsible decision about the level of investment our community can sustain.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I support improving public transportation options across the County, but I don't think we should simply copy an urban transit model. Rural transit has different challenges because of distance and lower

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population density. I would want to explore demand-responsive transportation, partnerships and other models that connect people to where they need to go.

Transit is not only about getting to work. It can mean getting to medical appointments, groceries, recreation, community activities or helping seniors maintain independence and young people get around. We have a valuable opportunity to learn from our neighbour, Norfolk County. I was working there when Ride Norfolk was first introduced and have seen the experience and lessons that have come from it. We can build on that knowledge while determining what works for Brant County. Before choosing a model, we would want to understand the need, locations the cost and what residents value most.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

One idea worth exploring is identifying the places seniors most commonly need to visit such as medical appointments, shopping and community activities and piloting a dedicated community shuttle on set routes and times. This could provide more predictable transportation without requiring a large expansion of the existing system. Transit should be about more than getting from one place to another. It should help people maintain independence, access essential services and stay connected to their community.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

Before supporting any boundary adjustment, I would need to understand the full implications for County residents, particularly those directly affected. That includes the financial terms, taxation, municipal services, transportation, farmland, as well as the long-term plans for the surrounding lands.

I believe the sense of urgency around this

issue, combined with limited public awareness early in the process, made it difficult for people to understand what was being proposed and to meaningfully engage. The County and City did undertake public engagement, and feedback that resulted in changes to the proposed lands that were paused. Lessons learned demonstrated how important it is to provide residents with clear information on why and what, and enough time to understand a significant decision before Council is asked to make it.

I would want any future agreement to be transparent, evidence-based and informed by meaningful community engagement, not simply driven by a deadline.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I was the lead for building the first Healthy Communities Plan for Haldimand and Norfolk. This was brought together two counties, municipal and public health staff, community organizations, agencies and residents, all with different experiences, priorities and perspectives.

My role was to help bring those voices together and create a process where people could move beyond their individual organizational priorities and identify what we wanted to achieve together. I facilitated conversations, helped groups find common ground and supported the development of shared goals and actions.

The success was not that everyone agreed on every issue. It was that a diverse group of people and organizations could see themselves in a shared direction and commit to working together.

That experience taught me that collaboration takes more than bringing people into the same room. It requires listening, building relationships, finding common ground and helping turn many perspectives into practical action. Those are skills I would bring to Council.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I believe economic development needs to fit the community we are building and the resources we have available. I would be cautious about data centre development in the County of Brant because of the questions about water use, energy, land and long-term impacts.

We are a rural community with significant agricultural land, gravel operations and renewable energy development already taking place. Our groundwater is also an important resource, and protecting our drinking water must be a priority.

Before supporting any data centre proposals, I would want clear information about its water requirements, where that water would come from, potential impacts on groundwater and other users, energy demands, land use, infrastructure needs, economic benefits and long-term costs to taxpayers. I would also want meaningful community engagement before decisions are made.

For me, the question is whether this type of development fits our community and protects the resources we depend on.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

The Long-Term Financial Plan is a great tool to understand the long-term implications of decisions, not simply whether we can afford something today. Before supporting any major investment, I would use this tool to help understand the impact on taxpayers, operating costs, infrastructure, debt and future capital need and this tool has help council to make these decisions.

As the County grows, I think this tool will become even more important. New development can bring opportunities, but it can also create new demands for roads, infrastructure, services and staff. I would like decisions to be based on clear information about both immediate need and long-term financial responsibility.

For me, good financial planning means thinking beyond the next budget and considering the community we are building for the future.

ANDREA BOWDEN



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider

when approving future development?

Brant County has designated growth areas and plans for a reason. Before expanding beyond them, we should focus on infill opportunities, underutilized properties, redevelopment, and whether existing County-owned lands and buildings can be repurposed.

Infrastructure should lead growth, not spend decades chasing it. Too often, roads, water, wastewater, schools, and emergency services are forced to catch up after growth has already happened. That approach is expensive for taxpayers and creates many of the challenges we're dealing with today.

We can always build more houses, but we can't build more productive farmland. My focus is making sure the land that should be farmed remains farmable and that agriculture is not chipped away one planning decision at a time.

The question isn't where we grow next. It's whether we're fully using the land and infrastructure we already have.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

Downtown Paris is one of Brant County's most recognizable assets. Additional residential development could provide more housing, support local businesses, attract investment, and bring more people within walking distance of shops and services.

The challenge is making sure growth does not create new problems. Parking is already difficult in parts of downtown. More residents, more traffic, higher density, increased servicing needs, and protecting the character of Paris all need to be considered.

My concern isn't any one project. It's what happens when all of these decisions are added together. Looking at projects one at a time can miss the bigger picture on impacts for the entire downtown core.

Growth should strengthen downtown Paris, not create parking and infrastructure problems that taxpayers are left solving later.

Development should strengthen what makes Paris attractive, not change it beyond recognition.

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

First, how did we get here? The Brant Sports Complex was originally built without a pool. We are now pursuing a \$31 million expansion that still does not include a pool and faces an \$8.8 million funding shortfall. Before that project is even complete, we are discussing a separate indoor pool estimated at \$38-\$49 million.

Access to swimming facilities is important, and I am open to supporting a public pool if there is a demonstrated need and a realistic long-term plan to build and operate it.

Brant County is already forecasting

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

MEET AND MINGLE WITH COUNTY OF BRANT
MAYORAL, WARD AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
CANDIDATES

PRESENTED BY:

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY

WED., OCT. 7, 2026 FROM 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
SOJOURN CHURCH 112 SCOTT AVE., PARIS

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property tax increases of 5.3% in 2027 and 6.5% in 2028. Grants are not free, debt must be repaid, and new facilities come with ongoing operating costs.

For transparency, residents deserve to know what a project will cost to build and who will ultimately pay for it. At the end of the day, taxpayers are left holding the bill.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Yes, if there is a proven need and it reflects rural realities.

Transportation in Brant won't improve until we admit the truth: we do not have a transportation system designed around how people actually travel.

Most residents rely on private vehicles and travel significant distances for work, education, healthcare, and essential services. Active transportation has value, but it is not a complete transportation solution in a rural municipality.

If taxpayer dollars are invested in transit, the system should help people reach jobs, schools, medical appointments, and essential services while reducing pressure on our road network.

Build transportation around how residents actually travel, not how planners wish they travelled. That may mean smaller vehicles, scheduled service, pre-booked routes and connections between communities rather than simply adding routes on a map.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

Yes, if there is a proven need and it reflects rural realities. Transportation in Brant won't improve until we admit the truth: we do not have a transportation system designed around how people actually travel.

Most residents rely on private vehicles and travel significant distances for work, education, healthcare, and essential services. Active transportation has value, but it is not a complete transportation solution in a rural municipality.

If taxpayer dollars are invested in transit, the system should help people reach jobs, schools, medical appointments, and essential services while reducing pressure on our road network.

Build transportation around how residents actually travel, not how planners wish they travelled. That may mean smaller vehicles, scheduled service, pre-booked routes and connections between communities rather than simply adding routes on a map.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The airport has existed under this arrangement for decades. Before transferring County land, discussing concessions, or changing boundary lines, Council and res-

idents deserve to understand what problem is being solved, who benefits financially, and why the current arrangement no longer works.

My biggest concern is that discussions appeared to begin with land transfers and boundary changes before a transparent plan was presented.

What is the plan? If there is a compelling public benefit, demonstrate it. If there is an economic case, present it.

No plan, no purpose, no support.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

Throughout my professional career, I've worked with purchasers, maintenance staff, engineers, and business owners. Each looked at the same issue differently because each was responsible for a different outcome.

Purchasers focused on cost, engineers focused on technical solutions, maintenance focused on getting it fixed, and business owners focused on return on investment and results. Each saw the problem differently, but the final solution needed all of those perspectives.

Council is no different. Every councillor hears different concerns from residents, businesses, farmers, and community groups, bringing different priorities and perspectives to the table. Each perspective should be heard, challenged, and considered.

My role is to understand those perspectives, identify trade-offs, and make decisions that serve the broader interests of Brant County.

The goal isn't for one priority to win. The goal is for Brant County to win.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

With the lack of factual information and uncertainty around long-term impacts, I would support taking a pause and doing the research first.

We're told AI data centres have the potential to create investment and jobs, but they also raise important questions about electricity demand, water use, servicing capacity, noise, emergency response requirements, and impacts on local infrastructure.

Other Ontario municipalities are already studying these issues and considering whether additional safeguards are necessary.

My approach is simple: Research first. Decide second.

If we're making decisions that could affect our community for decades, those decisions should be based on facts rather than assumptions.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

A Long-Term Financial Plan is an important tool, but it only works if priorities remain visible and changes are transparent.

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Projects, budgets, and timelines change. What matters is that residents understand what changed, why it changed, what was delayed, and who made that decision.

Every major decision should be evaluated based on both upfront and long-term costs. It is easy to build something. The harder question is whether it can be maintained and paid for years from now. Delaying a priority does not eliminate the cost. In many cases, it increases it. Deferred projects often return with higher costs and additional pressure on future budgets.

Accountability doesn't end after approving a plan. It means explaining when priorities change, where the money was redirected, what project gets pushed back, and the financial impact of those decisions. When priorities shift, residents should be able to follow the money and understand the consequences.

GLENN HUGHES



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you believe the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

I believe the current projected residential growth can work, but only with responsible planning. Infrastructure has to come first, and local voices need to be heard. In my ward, there's worry about moving too fast on sewers, but we also can't let the town die. New development should mean real opportunity. If a company like Contrans expands, I'm open to it, but I'd ask them to invest in people, like AZ license training for local youth. Growth has to be about jobs and accountability, not just more buildings.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I don't support this zoning change. Paris wasn't broken. Our charm and small-town fabric were working. Pushing height and density right before an election, with mixed feedback, was the wrong call. Four storeys would have been reasonable. Five starts to change the feel. I'm for improvements that fit Paris, but what I've seen over the last two years isn't genuine consensus. It's been top-down, not reflective of what residents have been saying. I want better, but better that fits and is led by the community.

How would you improve access to af-

fordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

I support improving access to public swimming in the County of Brant, but we need to be responsible. If we're going to talk about a major indoor or outdoor pool, the location has to make sense for the whole county, and the costs and long-term budget impacts have to be clear up front. I'm open to a serious community facility, but not without that homework.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

I support a practical, affordable transit partnership between the County and Brantford. We need regular, reliable service that connects communities like Burford and Paris to jobs in Brantford, especially during early and late shifts. It shouldn't be just an express that skips people. It needs sensible stops that actually serve riders.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

I'd like to see Brant Transit move toward dedicated, reliable routes with posted times people can actually plan their day around. The current on-demand model has value, but people going to work, appointments or school need predictability. If we're going to operate a transit system, residents should know when and where the bus will be there.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

We've already given up about 6,700 acres. That's enough for tens of thousands of people. So my position is no more giveaways. Farmland is food security and history, and once it's gone, it's gone. I will work with Brantford when it benefits both sides, but cooperation doesn't mean open season on County land. For me, it's simple: protect our farms.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

One of the best examples is my work as Picture Vehicle Coordinator on The Terminal List Season 2. It was a multinational production involving Canada, South Africa and Morocco, with filming in multiple cities and a tremendous amount of coordination. My job was to bring together vehicles, specialized equipment, aircraft, production departments and people from very different backgrounds and make sure everything worked when and where it was supposed to. On a production of that size, problems happen every day. My role is to find solu-

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tions, bring the right people together and keep things moving. That's what I would bring to Council. I know how to work with different personalities and different points of view. You don't have to agree on everything to sit down, find common ground and get something accomplished.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

I do not support a one-year moratorium on AI data centers. My position is stronger than that: no AI data centers in the County of Brant, period. I don't believe they're a good fit for our county. To me, it's short-term gains for long-term pain. That's not a trade I'm willing to make with our farmland and infrastructure. My position is clear: no AI data centers in Brant County.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I would use the County's long-term financial plan as a reality check, but to actually reach those goals, I would want us to think differently. We should be exploring municipal bonds so County residents can invest directly in their community and return to community involvement, community money and community investment. If we support that kind of tool, the long-range plans become something people buy into, not just a budget on paper.

BEN CLEMENT



What is your position on the current and projected residential growth and development in the county? Do you be-

lieve the pace and scale of development are appropriate for the community, and what factors should Council consider when approving future development?

I believe that the projected residential growth is incredibly ambitious. I think in order to accommodate the number of people the county plans to house, we should consider the infrastructure first. Not only new infrastructure but the existing roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, emergency services etc. If you take the time to listen to our current residents of Brant County this is what they are saying, and that is what council needs to consider moving forward.

Recent approval of a zoning change for properties in downtown Paris represents an important first step toward a significant residential development in the downtown core. What impact do you believe this type of development could have on downtown Paris? Please identify both the potential benefits and challenges.

I'm not sure that I agree with the zoning change in the Paris downtown. I question whether the number of residential units targeted as parking is already a concern for the shopping district. Those residential units will require many more places to park. I believe that parking is an area that Paris is already struggling to provide for downtown. If it is intended to be a shopping and tourism-based area, do we want to develop more housing in that area? When it comes down to it what do the businesses and people of Paris want?

How would you improve access to affordable public swimming facilities for County of Brant residents, particularly given the limited access to pools in Brantford? Would you support the development of a public swimming pool (a new one indoors or another one outdoors) in the County of Brant?

Improving access to public swimming pools is a great idea. I believe a facility that provides swimming lessons for youth and low impact physiotherapy/exercise for residents would be of great benefit in our community. However, location, cost and impact on residents would have to be closely examined when considering a new facility.

What are your views on establishing a public transit system within the County of Brant to connect communities such as Paris, Brantford, Burford and St. George and how should the County approach the costs and funding associated with implementing and operating such a system?

Public transit is a staple for our larger cities to connect. The problem is again going to be the cost of building. I think we would

have to look into grants that are available, and other revenue streams to fund the idea, for example advertising, bus fares etc. Much of our county remains rural and bus service is not high on the priority list, therefore I do not believe in raising taxes on residents to pay for yet another service that is not available for all residents to utilize.

What changes or improvements would you like to see made to Brant Transit to better meet the transportation needs of County of Brant residents?

I think we have to look at the cost associated with the Brant Transit system. I believe we need a dedicated number of vehicles providing seniors and disabled residents with service at an adjusted cost. I believe that those that use the service to go to and from work or on personal errands must understand there is a cost associated with the service that is provided and are willing to pay a reasonable rate to fund the system. I have been told that the booking system is not great, and availability is scarce. A review of the system would be necessary.

What specific outcome would you work toward regarding the proposed boundary adjustment involving the Brantford Municipal Airport and surrounding County-owned lands? Include key concerns you would address before supporting any agreement with the City of Brantford?

The issue of the Brantford municipal airport is of great importance. The idea of losing more farmland to be developed is deeply concerning. The idea of current Brant County residents being told they are no longer part of Brant County and our part of the city of Brantford is also not great. The potential impact on environmentally sensitive lands is again deeply concerning. My question again is what do the residents, the farmers and landowners in that particular think and want? What are the actual environmental impacts of what they are proposing to build? What is the city offering? And finally, what is the province mandating? I can't say I would work in a direction until I know all the true facts. I can say more urban sprawl on farmland and naturalized areas I am firmly against.

Can you provide an example of a time you worked within a complex organization or with a diverse group of people to achieve a successful outcome? What role did you play in reaching that result?

I own and operate a tree service that specializes in tree removal in urban areas as

well as pruning and tree repair. As a small business owner, I organize and balance the day-to-day job planning with clients, municipalities, roads departments, public works, as well as sub-contractors including crane operators, rental bin companies, hydro services etc. to achieve the job at hand from simple prunes, to large scale wood lot removal or individual tree removal. I am responsible in sales so communicating with the client the job details and cost associated. I am also the one who coordinates all the equipment and manpower needed to accomplish the job at hand. I have done this for 17 years as the owner and operator of Timber Pro Tree Care.

If elected to Brant County Council, will you propose a motion for Council's approval to impose a one-year moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers until the water, energy, pollution, and noise issues are thoroughly understood?

Any issue that is not completely understood is definitely to be put on pause. AI centers in particular with the questions regarding hydro and water consumption is a hard no. So yes, I support a minimum moratorium and would go further by saying we just don't need it.

The County has adopted a Long-Term Financial Plan to help guide its financial decisions and priorities over the coming years. If elected, how would you use that plan to guide your decisions at the council table, particularly when weighing new priorities, major investments and the long-term affordability of services for County residents?

I would essentially use the long-term financial plan as I would any other business plan. There is a budget we need to stick to it. Not to say that all money allocated to certain areas needs to be spent there with careful planning and precise execution and precision of projects maybe we could save a few dollars. A dollar saved is a dollar earned and could be allocated to other projects or areas in need. In any household or business there are wants and there are needs. I believe the needs come first and the wants unfortunately have to wait until the needs are looked after. So, in other words I would be flexible within the budget but stick to the budget.

CLAUDINE CRAIGIE

Responses not received before deadline

ROBERT CHAMBERS

Responses not received before deadline

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the traditional birthstone of October?
2. Who bet Eddie Murphy \$100,000 he couldn't make a hit song?
3. Who was selected 1st overall in the 2026 NFL draft?
4. What is the name of the famous clock tower in Ottawa?
5. In what year did ABBA win Eurovision?
6. What disease used to be called consumption?
7. What brand introduced the first-ever fully automatic drip coffee maker in the 1970?
8. What is the color of an emerald?
9. The offspring of a polar bear and a grizzly is a what?
10. Montana shares a northern border with which 3 Canadian provinces?

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

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