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## THE COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES OF WARD 9

### **Why the Civic Election on Monday, October 16, 2017 should matter to you?**

Have you ever looked around your neighborhood and wished you had more amenities to access for you and your family. Amenities such as playgrounds, schools, parkland, rinks, libraries, recreation centers etc. Or wished your morning commute went more efficiently?

During the 2013 election, only 22,684 people voted (~40%) in ward 9. Of this amount, only 1,051 were from Windermere. Only 4.6% of the votes came from Windermere despite us being the largest community in Ward 9. For this election, the Greater Windermere Community League would love to see a much greater voter turnout to show that we as voters care about what happens in our community and who will help this community to achieve its potential.

Something that most people don't know is that the City of Edmonton plans their budget and capital spending years in advance. This fall, after the election, the budget meeting will discuss spending for 2019-2022. That means that if there are any amenities or capital projects you want to see in the community in the near future will have to be brought forth in that budget discussion in order to even start construction before 2023. Anything not approved at that meeting will not be brought forth again until the 2023-2026 budget cycle. So going out to vote will affect how the development of your neighborhood will be for the next 10 years.

Did you know that there will be a civic election on October 16<sup>th</sup> to elect a city councillor for our ward (9)? Councillor Bryan Anderson will be retiring after serving ward 9 for the past 6 terms. This is a great opportunity to vote for a candidate that will work towards your vision of the kind of community you call home.

As a way to get to know the candidates a bit better, the Greater Windermere Community League contacted all the candidates via email to ask them:

**“What is your vision for Windermere during your term and how will you advocate for our community to fulfill that vision?”**



**Dr. Robert Agostinis**

I envision vibrant and engaged communities, encompassing the key elements to great community life: Home, School, Recreation, and Assembly (“Towne Within a City”), and transportation and transit infrastructure.

I’ve learned while door knocking that we need to fix transportation, roads and transit; we need schools, libraries and community hubs; and we need recreational facilities. With all this

in mind, we need to spend our dollars wisely and deal with priorities first.

I want people to engage from the grassroots level to help come up with recommendations and ideas for their communities. I want a community that is informed by a local Ward 9 Advisory Council. This group will be functionally and socially diverse and inclusive, comprised of people and organizations representing all aspects of life guiding our major decisions.

I believe our future schools will have wrap around services that meet the needs of all ages, providing lifelong education and growth for everyone. Seniors will be able to live in their homes longer and have access to specialized services, programs and recreation. We will have green spaces, a completed multi-use corridor, walkable communities, and a winter strategy. Places of assembly such as recreation centres, community halls and business nodes will continue to provide services to residents.

I want to make sure that transportation projects are not done on a temporary basis. With better collaboration between planning and transportation, projects can be done in a timely manner and fully completed. We want an accessible and effective public transit system, utilizing more economical, efficient and flexible options such as Bus Rapid Transit.

As a member of Windermere, it is imperative that you take the time to come out and vote for an experienced candidate like myself who will best represent you and your ideas on City Council.





## **Tim Cartmell**

My vision for Windermere includes the investment in a number of amenities that would enhance the lives of Windermere residents. I would like to see improved transportation infrastructure, including a second overpass at the Terwillegar Drive - Anthony Henday interchange, and an additional lane along Anthony Henday Drive from Callingwood Road to QE2 highway. I would also like to see improved transit service to the Windermere communities. I would communicate with my colleagues at the provincial level and advocate for such improvements.

Beyond transportation, I would like to see some community supports initiated, including a community league and an outdoor rink. Typically the city leaves it to the community to organize a league and fundraise for such amenities. I believe that these amenities would allow for community gatherings, perhaps an opportunity for a child care business, or simply would enhance the play spaces already present in Windermere. I think it puts a lot of added pressure on communities to try to organize and fundraise for these amenities in their free time, and I think the city could do more to initiate the process to getting these valuable pieces of infrastructure built. I think that the city could undertake such initiatives on a cost recovery basis that serves the community by making the initial investment. I would explore these ideas with city administration, provincial authorities and with local school boards to see what partnership and financing opportunities might be available.

Finally, I see the next public high school being built at the Glenridding site. Development of this school is absolutely imperative to serve the families of Greater Windermere and ultimately a large portion of southwest Edmonton. We cannot continue to bus large numbers of our children out of Windermere to other communities. I would strongly advocate for this school with provincial and school board representatives.





## Mark Hope

First of all I think Windermere is a great part of our city, and I frequent the area often for my shopping needs. As with the rest of Ward 9, we have seen a lot of growth in the past number of years, with a growing Tax base, but services that have sometimes lagged behind. I would like to see more forward thinking for developments and a proactive approach, rather than reactive to issues that will arise, and then become more costly both in terms of dollars, and the effect it has on our lives. The perfect example of this is the Terwillegar Dr freeway, and other roadways that become a bottleneck for our neighbours, and only get worse as

growth continues. Road congestion leads to more accidents, and is proven to be detrimental to the economy and our everyday lives. It isn't difficult to identify the worst bottlenecks which cause the most disruption to traffic, and work our way down list. I would also like to work with the Provincial Government to improve the South West section of the Anthony Henday, and increase the speed limit to 110km/hr. Now is a good time to get projects done, while it is cheaper, and stimulates the economy at the same time.

My belief is Edmontonians should have more say in the way the city is run than ever before. It is our city, and our hard earned money being spent. With technology being what it is today, there are very cost effective ways to get input on issues and know what is important to people, and what is not. We should have the ability to be heard BEFORE decisions are made, rather than just complain afterward. I feel strongly in open-source style of representation, and will use online surveying so that if I am given the honour to be on council, I can do what YOU want.



## **Payman Parseyan**

While concerns and issues seem to vary within the greater Windermere area, one issue appears to be clear. Transportation; roadways and transit. Terwillegar drive was supposed to be built in 1986 and has sat on the backburner ever since. Transit is often seen as empty buses or “a limousine for the 1 or 2 riders” and not there when you need it. The newer communities feel that developments are approved without consideration for the lack of infrastructure capacity to support this rapid expansion.

My vision for Windermere is simple. We need to get to and from home, feel safe within our communities and be proud to live in Windermere. I would advocate for efficiency by pushing for Terwillegar drive/170 Street to be built and working with our provincial/federal partners to prioritize and fund this long overdue roadway. Anthony Henday traffic will increase drastically in 2 years and we need to work with our provincial partners to speed up the widening process. I would engage with the community to see if the residential speed limits should be amended with safety, environmental and engineering in mind. (50km/h is often too high for those narrow residential roads and the Anthony Henday could be raised 110km/h.) I believe that we need a recreation facility such as an indoor soccer facility in the southwest which can be a one-stop-shop with other amenities such as a library or other services to provide a more livable, yet cost effective initiative.

Having a list of the concerns/priorities for Windermere is the easy part. You must decide who is showing you the energy that they are willing to take that task on and engage with the community in an approachable and open manner to ensure that these matters are addressed accordingly.



## Sandy Pon



I am Sandy Pon and I have lived and have raised my family in Ward 9 for the past 26 years. I am proud of our new neighbourhoods of Windermere. With a perfect mix of beautiful homes, parks and trails and shopping amenities. The 5 communities within Windermere attract many to live, work and play in the area. With growth, there will be demands on these neighbourhoods.

As your elected City Councillor, My vision for Windermere to have a vibrant community and all its residents to be safe and happy. We have urgently needed amenities and infrastructure to build. In order to accommodate the daily needs of our

residents and businesses in Windermere, we cannot wait any longer. Amenities such as a library, community and medical related centres for family and seniors, safe marked crosswalks and lighting, more play areas for children and pets, better emergency services, better transit and bus stops, more roadway access to ease traffic congestion, more small businesses to serve the different corners of the community. I will collaborate with the local school authorities to push for provincial funding to get our high schools built on time. It is my goal that Windermere will have something for everyone. I will make sure our tax dollars are used properly and efficiently with these projects.

This is what I set out to accomplish for Windermere in my term as your Councillor for Ward 9.