

HASTINGS HIGHLANDS

Meet the Candidates

FOR COUNCILLOR

Keith Buck



For more than fifteen years my wife Donna and I have called Hastings Highlands home. We came to enjoy the tall trees and rolling hills and to rejuvenate an old farm. Over the years our four sons and their wives and now, six granddaughters, have come to the farm to relax, have fun and pick a few weeds in the gardens.

For almost six years I have had the privilege to serve our community as a member of council. In this capacity I have never shied away from championing causes or asking the tough questions about the future of our fire services, taxation, tele-communications, tourism, economic development and boat launches.

During this most recent term I have represented council as a member of the Hastings County Municipal Economic & Tourism Development Partners Group as well as the Bancroft OPP Detachment Board.

I am currently the Co-Vice Chair of the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council, a wonderful group of dedicated individuals.

I want to thank everyone for your trust. Should you have any questions or challenges, please get in touch.

Roger Davis



My name is Roger Davis, and I am asking for your support to continue serving as Councillor for Hastings Highlands.

For more than 60 years, Hastings Highlands has been part of my life. This is more than a place on a map to me—it is home. It is where my wife, Caroline, and I live, where I feel a deep responsibility to give back.

Over the past four years on Municipal Council, I have listened, learned, and worked hard to represent residents with honesty and respect. My committee work has shown me how important careful decisions are—from waste management and property standards to trails, land use, and the future of our municipality.

I enjoy fishing, hunting, and ATVing on our local trails. I clear snow for local residents and my church, I volunteer, and I sharing my music at different venues in the area such as the Maynooth Public Library, Seniors' dances, Hastings Centennial Manor, Riverstone, and the Royal Canadian Legion.

I believe in being involved, dependable and transparent. Everyone deserves to be heard, respected, and treated fairly. Your voice should not be lost—it should be brought to the council table.

If re-elected, I will continue to listen, stay accessible, speak up for residents, and make responsible decisions that protect the character of Hastings Highlands while helping our community move forward with confidence.

On election day, I would be honoured to earn your trust and your vote. I do not have to be your first choice, but I would be grateful to be one of your choices. Together, we can keep Hastings Highlands strong, caring, and proud.

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FOR COUNCILLOR

Wayne Elliott



Wayne Elliott has lived in the area for most of his life. He has been extensively involved in arts and community development, sitting on numerous boards for arts and non-profit organizations over the decades, Wayne has developed the capacity to synthesize multiple perspectives and work towards meeting everyone's needs.

Wayne is acutely aware of the mounting ecological crises we are facing and aims to engage in ongoing conversations around what we can do as a community to reduce our footprint and prepare for the challenges to come, together, as a community. To illustrate this, Wayne has opted for paper leaflets and flyers as a reflection of his commitment to sustainability as well as fiscal responsibility. He looks forward to conversations with people and engaging with community as part of this campaign and beyond.

Fiscal responsibility is vital, but needs to be done in a way that doesn't deprive the community as a whole- engaging people into being active, participating citizens can both save money and build cohesion.

Tracy Hagar



I have lived locally in Hastings Highlands for the past 30 years. During this time, I have worked locally and volunteered for several local organizations as well as being instrumental in organizing several local annual events. My husband and I raised our 2 boys here who are now a licenced plumber and a licenced electrician. I have owned and operated Foxfire Antiques in Maynooth for the past 15 years. A business I started from the ground up.

I have enjoyed listening and serving you for the past 12 years as a Councillor, Deputy Mayor as well as Mayor in our Municipality. I believe in the health of our people and supporting social and physical activities for all, from supporting our library to free physical activities in Emond Hall. Supporting Fire services is extremely important especially given the location of where we live, keeping the vehicles and tools our Fire Fighters need up to date is vital.

Our lakes and environmental health is also a top priority for me, I will always support initiatives that reflect this. As a member of Council I will work hard to keep our roads repaired and newly paved by following the 5 year roads needs plan and still always be prepared for emergencies.

As a member of Council I will always be fiscally responsible and I will put the needs of our community first when making my vote. I appreciate this opportunity to meet you.

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FOR COUNCILLOR

Dave Hunt



Dave Hunt has been a proud cottager in Hastings Highlands for 24 years, sharing the community with his wife Kelley, their children and grandchildren. He has developed a deep appreciation for the people, landscapes and way of life that make Hastings Highlands special.

Dave brings more than 50 years of sales and management experience, including overseeing employees, finances, purchasing and business operations. He also owns a rural small business specializing in RV repairs, parts and accessories.

Community involvement has always mattered to Dave. He served as a church treasurer for 20 years and was involved with the Canterbury Folk Festival for two decades, helping build several stages, including the Main Stage dedicated to his mother. In 2024 Dave revived the Maynooth Farmers Market as the Maynooth Morning Market, bringing vendors and residents together again. I have learned about municipal government early by watching my father, Ernie, serve three terms on Town Council.

As a Councillor, I will focus on responsible spending, transparency, community consultation and protecting the character of Hastings Highlands. I believe development must be carefully planned, with proper consideration for residents, cottagers, the environment, waterways and wildlife. I am committed to being the eyes, ears and voice of residents – listening, asking questions and making independent decisions based on what is best for Hastings Highlands. Working, Listening and Delivering For Our Community

Liam Kearney



After spending 20 years of summer vacations in Hasting Highlands on Papineau Lake, we decided to move here from Belleville. We have come to love the tranquilly and friendly people all over the area. Our kids with their own children, are starting to enjoy the tranquility and friendly people of Hasting Highlands as well.

In Belleville, I worked in the manufacturing industries dealing with Sales, Quality Control and Production Management. I am also a member of the A.N.A.F for over thirty years where I held several executive positions. The last six years I have been on the Hasting Highlands Volunteer Fire Department where I have taken the time and dedication to advance to a Captain and Trainer.

Where I feel I can help the residents of Hasting Highlands is my ability to make independent decisions and keep an open mind. Working as one large community is where we need to be and getting there will only happen as a group. Accountability of Council and the Municipality would be one way of doing this. We need to ask as many questions as possible to make sure all the facts are reviewed before decisions are made. As a retired person now, I have more time to follow through on issues / requests of Hasting Highlands residents. I will always have an open mind, and willingness to help others as much as possible.

I have met many residents of Hasting Highlands and visitors as well. From what I have seen and heard from them, I have decided to try to give something back to the community. This is why I am running as a councillor to help make a difference for everyone in the Community.

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Meet the Candidates

FOR COUNCILLOR

Brad MacDonald



I am 29 years old and a 5th generation resident of Hastings Highlands. I live in Purdy with my wife Grace and two boys Kenny and Calvin. In 2023 we took over our family farm that has been in my family for 118 years and counting!

I have a diploma in automotive dealership management from the Automotive School of Business at Georgian College. I have worked at Paul Price Ford in Bancroft as a Sales Manager for 8+ years and have 10+ years total experience in the automotive sales/finance industry. I am also a licensed Mortgage Agent with Dominion Lending Centres.

Grace and I attend Graphite Bible Chapel in Maynooth. Some of my interests are politics, business and economics, history, cars and watching hockey and baseball when I can find the time.

I am running for municipal council because I believe our community deserves responsible, accountable leadership focused on getting the most value for every tax dollar. We need to keep taxes low while still delivering the essential services residents rely on, and that means making thoughtful spending decisions, reducing waste, and prioritizing what matters most.

At the same time, I believe we should pursue economic growth by supporting local businesses, attracting new investment, encouraging development, and creating opportunities for families and entrepreneurs to succeed. With fiscal responsibility, practical decision-making, and a strong focus on economic growth, we can build a community that is affordable to live in, attractive to invest in, and positioned for a prosperous future.

Nancy Matheson



As your neighbour, parent, and grandparent, I have a genuine personal commitment to the future of Hastings Highlands. Over 31 years as a resident, 14 years on Council, 12 years as a local business owner, and 30 years as a waterfront property owner, I have built a life here, raised my family, and developed a broad understanding of our community and the people who call it home.

I am seeking re-election to continue serving Hastings Highlands with experience, integrity, and a strong record of community involvement. I believe in listening, doing the research, asking the questions, and working toward practical solutions. Over the past fourteen years, I have worked to promote transparent, accountable, and fiscally responsible decision-making while listening to and representing residents across our municipality. I support responsible growth that protects our lakes and natural environment, careful financial management, strong infrastructure and essential services, and pursuing grants to support our community.

My commitment goes beyond the Council table. I have organized 10 successful Food Drives supporting local families in need and successfully pursued an Enbridge Gas grant during COVID-19 that enabled the Maynooth Food Bank to purchase a refrigerator and freezer. I have also co-organized two Seniors Expos, founded and chaired the Honourarium Committee, helping transform our gym into a multi-purpose community centre, and continue to volunteer at community events including Brighten the Night and the Easter Eggstravaganza. It has been a privilege to serve the residents of Hastings Highlands, and I would be honoured to continue working for our community,

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Meet the Candidates

FOR COUNCILLOR

Joan Nieman



Born in 1958, I am married, and raised my family in Maynooth, Ontario. I have always been proud of our community and love the lifestyle it has to offer.

I am thrilled to be running again for Council in the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election.

I am passionate and committed to address new challenges, while bringing and promoting new opportunities to our community.

I have always been approachable and will aim to build strong relationship with our community organizations and businesses.

I welcome the opportunity to serve as Councillor for a second term.

Troy Thrower



Troy Thrower is a retired educator, local volunteer, and long-time Hastings Highlands resident running for Municipal Council. He moved to the area in 1997 to begin teaching at North Hastings Senior Elementary School, eventually settling in Hastings Highlands. Troy and his wife fell in love with the community and raised their three children here. Years of officiating local hockey, and teaching grade 7-8, have sharpened Troy's active listening skills, composure, and ability to handle difficult conversations under pressure with a fair and balanced approach.

As a former teacher, union representative, and member of the ETFOHP collective bargaining team, Troy served as a strong voice for northern educators. He brings extensive experience in long-term strategic planning that prioritizes community goals.

Now retired, Troy remains actively engaged in local life. He plays trumpet with the Hastings County Concert Band, which raised thousands of dollars for local charities last year. He also serves as a local hockey referee and is an avid tennis player. Troy offers a practical, long-term vision for Hastings Highlands, paired with the practical experience needed to represent all residents effectively on Council.

After nearly 30 years in Hastings Highlands, I am running for Council to protect and strengthen the community that gave so much to my family. My goal is to ensure that future generations inherit the same vibrant, supportive, and welcoming community that my children grew up in.

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Meet the Candidates

Deputy Mayor

Tammy Davis

Acclaimed
Deputy Mayor

(Profile & Picture not provided)
Will attend the meeting.

HASTINGS HIGHLANDS

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Mayor

Tony Fitzgerald



I am a lifelong resident of Hastings Highlands, living on the family farm where I was born. Together with my wife Judy, we have raised four children and enjoy the blessings of 14 grandchildren. I was a volunteer firefighter and coached minor hockey for almost 20 years. I enjoy music, canoeing and playing hockey. I retired from over 30 years of teaching elementary school in June 2018 and was elected Councillor in October of that year. In 2022, I was elected Mayor of Hastings Highlands and in 2024, I was elected Deputy Warden of Hastings County and Chair of the Finance Committee.

I am very proud of what Council has accomplished in this term. We developed a new Strategic Plan listing our key priorities and strategies to achieve them. This has helped Council focus on our key objectives, such as ensuring financial stability by maintaining a competitive tax rate. We now have the third lowest property tax rate of all 14 municipalities in Hastings County. Another key goal was to focus on our roads and bridges by implementing a strategy to revitalize HH Road 62, the former provincial highway. I am immensely proud of the fact that we secured a \$25 Million grant from the Province of Ontario to rehabilitate and resurface this key artery. This project is now underway, with completion anticipated in late 2028.

I would be honoured and privileged to be given the opportunity to continue to lead Hastings Highlands into the future as your Mayor.

Joey Shulman



Joey Shulman was born in St. John's, Newfoundland and moved to Regina, Saskatchewan with his family and then to Toronto where he spent 25 years before moving to Banff, Alberta.

He opened The Other Agency in 1978 and ran it till 1985 representing clients like Imperial Oil and the National Ballet. From 1985 to 1988 Joey was Director of Communications and Public Relations for The Banff Centre and on the faculty of their School of Management. He taught fundraising and crisis media relations.

In 1988, Joey and his partner Barry Siegrist moved to Maynooth, 10 km outside of town. They built a 1000 foot extension on a 100 year old farm house and opened Wildewood Guest House in 1992. They welcomed 1000 guests over 19 years.

In 1989 Joey co-founded the Maynooth Business Association and was Chair for most of the 30 years it existed. He also co-founded Maynooth Madness and the Brighten the Night Christmas Parade. He has directed and produced five musicals featuring local talent.

Joey was very engaged with the amalgamation of five municipalities 25 years ago and also the planning of the downtown make-over.

In 2012 Joey and Barry moved in to downtown Maynooth and opened Wildewood Gallery in 2013, featuring local and Indigenous artists for ten years. Retiring in 2023, Joey continued his volunteering fundraising for Friends for Dinner and Pride celebrations.