

MAYORAL CANDIDATES



Darryl Bennett



Mathew Graham

1. Why are you running for the elected position you have chosen?

Bennett:	I'm running to continue to build on the Cavan Monaghan base. The future of this region hinges on the successes of Cavan Monaghan going forward
Graham:	Because I care about this community and the important decisions that the next Council will face.

2. What skills and experiences do you have that would make you an effective Mayor?

Bennett:	I have a lifetime of business experience that in many ways mirrors the activities of CM Transportation related services, financial services and property related transactions. Along with that I was Mayor in the City of Ptboro for 8 years.
Graham:	I have invested a full time effort in the role of Deputy Mayor and been asked to take the leadership position as the Chair of the Finance Committee at the County of Peterborough. Over the last 4 years we have worked hard as a Council to make our municipality a leader in the region, for both efficiency and growth. I have been a Director of a family business managing various investments since I was 15 but I have also had corporate experience in executive recruitment in the GTA but also rural roots having grown up on a farm in Cavan.

3. What are your top 3 priorities for Cavan Monaghan?

Bennett:	Managing tax based costs ,health care and planning to ensure we get maximum value
Graham:	Keeping taxes low, strategic plan to improve access to health care, more diverse housing to meet the needs of our community.

4. How will you enhance a sense of community among all residents of the township at a time of significant change?

Bennett:	Growth is, when managed properly, beneficial; we have a unique community with its rural routes and built heritage that attracts new people. We as Council should create property related by laws that recognize the blend of new growth with our existing culture.
Graham:	I think it has been an especially difficult time to integrate into a new community during the pandemic. With circumstances improving, we have to create opportunities such as events to bring the community together whenever possible. We also need to stop the rhetoric about rural versus urban, we are a growing rural municipality and have communities experiencing growth throughout the entire municipality.

5. What ideas do you have to improve communications with residents and businesses on Township matters?

Bennett:	I have in my business career maintained an open door policy fact and knowledge based decision making is key to our success. We have two ears and one mouth; listen twice as much as you talk.
Graham:	We have expanded our social media and email newsletter accounts, but the uptake is still lagging. The costs of Township wide mailings make it unaffordable to use the mail much more frequently, but when issues warranting it arrive we have to consider using that direct approach more often. Even using road signs like we do for Leaf and Yard Waste pick-up are a traditional form of media that I think could help raise awareness.

6. Name a key service and how Cavan Monaghan can improve in its delivery.

Bennett:	Planning in discussions with citizens seems to be an item that needs some attention. We will remind staff the citizens are our customers and treat them accordingly. "What can we do to assist?" is a great mind set.
Graham:	Outside of taxes, I think traffic and speeding is the most common complaint I hear from residents. While policing can't possibly be in every area of the Township, we have recently purchased a speed monitoring device that displays and also records speeding and can be moved throughout the Township into areas of concern. We also should consider investing in temporary speed bumps that we can utilize and move throughout the Township to encourage slowing down in residential areas.

7. All municipalities hope to develop strong local economies. What would you propose to improve business attraction, development and retention in Cavan Monaghan?

Bennett:	Use the tools we have. The land adjacent to every arterial road should be identified for industrial / commercial activity. Use the connections with our developers to attract their contacts to locate in our township, Survey all our existing businesses and follow up on their contacts.
Graham:	Our entire region is struggling with vacant and serviced employment land. That's why our previous Council took the strategic action to purchase a farm in a strategic area by the 115 to convert into an employment hub with the potential to bring in tremendous employment to our Township. We also have just recently expanded access to CIP funds throughout the entire Township with some programs giving businesses access to funding to enhance or establish new businesses worth up to \$10,000 in some cases.

8. Cavan Monaghan has strong roots as an agricultural community. What opportunities does the Council have to expand its support for farmers and agricultural operations?

Bennett:	Council needs to be aware of any and all programs designed to benefit rural Ontario. We need to be proactive in promoting our needs and any benefits to the Province. Promote our existing farm community in setting up venues where our products can be displayed.
Graham:	One program in the expanded CIP is the Rural and Agricultural Ec Dev Grant that makes funding available for establishing or growing agricultural-based businesses. Modern agriculture practices and businesses also need modern technology and infrastructure including faster internet, better cell coverage, and natural gas expansion. We were disappointed to miss out on the most recent natural gas project, but will apply again, and Nexicom is working diligently to expand their network throughout the Township but we need to keep lobbying higher levels of government to help support these investments.

9. Mayoral candidates in the City of Peterborough have publicly stated that they will annex 4,000 acres of Cavan Monaghan into the city during this next term of council. Will you be supportive of engaging in those discussions with the City of Peterborough? Why or why not?

Bennett:	The greatest property fallacy of all times occurred when Russia sold (now) Alaska to the USA. There is no benefit to an active community in diminishing its land mass. I see no value in an outright annexation.
Graham:	I do not support annexation, it is an archaic approach to growth that modern technology has made almost obsolete. I hope that the relationship between the City and the Township and the City and the County can improve under new Councils and we can create a better regional economic strategy and partnerships that can actually streamline economic development and address major regional problems in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

10. The Cavan Monaghan Parks and Recreation Survey recently addressed the issue of public space in downtown Millbrook. Options were presented for refurbishing the Millbrook arena for uses that would include indoor soccer and lacrosse or alternatively demolishing the structure for a downtown Millbrook town square and community space that could accommodate such amenities as an outdoor stage, picnic areas, outdoor recreational areas and a water-play facility. Do you have a preferred option that you would support and why?

Bennett:	We have a functional facility; we have a vibrant level of youth and others who make use of the Arena. I see no benefit to removing it at this time. The youth of today represent our future. The continued investment in the Arena will pay long term benefits.
Graham:	We have yet to see any of the results of the survey, but I am committed to an informed and open public process for any considerations. There are a lot of plans for the development of the CMCC lands for recreation, and there needs to be a balance of facilities that address the different growing needs of our community.

11. Climate change is an emerging concern for all municipalities. What can council do to help ensure that the predicted impacts of climate change, such as less predictable rainfall and stronger storms, are mitigated?

Bennett:	As with a lot of my day to day decisions we use an environmental lens to look at how each addition or change can be used to mitigate climate change. I will ensure that continues.
Graham:	Our township has committed to a Climate Change Action Plan since 2016 to reduce our GHG emissions by roughly 30% and we've made great strides in that. We also have been regional leaders in a pilot organics waste program when combined with the adoption of our Clear Bag is having an upwards of 20% reduction in our landfill usage. We also are committed to building and renovating our buildings in the Township to more efficient energy and lighting solutions, and maintaining our solar program with it's 8 panels throughout the Township.

12. Cavan Monaghan Township has hundreds of kilometers of roads. Speeding and road safety are ongoing concerns across the township. What would you propose to increase road safety for all residents on Township roads?

Bennett:	By experience we found the use of speed signage reminding all of us of the speed we are travelling at is effective. Data can be collected and then as required enforcement can be utilized in keeping with that data. The results were very beneficial in keeping drivers alerted to speeds. This is not an expensive fix.
Graham:	I have encouraged residents to take advantage of both the telephone and online reporting of dangerous driving, but we need to ensure people with concerns about areas bring these to both the Township and the Police's attention so they can adjust their enforcement. I also think the deployment of our speed monitor and the purchase of temporary speed bumps as I mentioned earlier are worthwhile investments that we need to try and see if they can make a difference.

13. The City of Peterborough owns the Peterborough Airport which is located within the Township of Cavan Monaghan. What role do you envision the Township should play in the future of the Airport and the valuable development lands around it?

Bennett:	Cavan Monaghan will continue to assist as we can with approvals for designated services around the airport. The land around airports should where possible maintain an industrial state .Airports create noise and traffic leaving those adjacent properties looking for relief
Graham:	It was very unfortunate that the Township was not welcomed to participate in the Airport Master Plan Committee, having recently reviewed the plans I don't understand why there isn't more interest in working with the Township where the airport is located within to explore alternative funding options and partnership agreements that could greatly reduce the planned costs of service expansion on the City of Peterborough taxpayers, but we will need to be involved in the event services and infrastructure will be completed in the Township owned lands.

14. Cavan Monaghan is endowed with many valuable Natural Heritage zoned areas. At present there is no up-to-date study of the ecological importance of these areas. Do

you support the development of a comprehensive Environmental Plan and Watershed Plan for the township? Why or why not?

Bennett:	The County of Ptboro has been the authority for watershed management .I understand they recently budgeted some funds for a long awaited update. Cavan Monaghan has done work on its own to monitor watershed activity and has determined through data there are adequate water resources to manage all our needs now and into the future.
Graham:	Our Township has repeatedly requested that the County of Peterborough (who is legislatively responsible for Watershed Plans) to complete one. We were fortunate earlier this year to request the County set aside \$1M towards the cost of this multi-million dollar study that needs to explore and inform the entire County so that we can direct growth accordingly.

15. After consultation and deliberation, council recently voted to prohibit off-road vehicles from using township roads except for agricultural uses. What is your position on ORVs and local roads?

Bennett:	Prohibition is not the answer to address ATV ORV activity. I'm in favour of revisiting that by-law.
Graham:	After 2 years of public consultation and community engagement I am not aware of any new information that would warrant any reconsideration. I understand the outcome is disappointing to some residents, but there was never a report recommending all roads be open, and the County has also moved on with their work on their Transportation Master Plan.

16. Municipal water and wastewater services in Cavan Monaghan are paid for by the users of those services. Millbrook residents' water and wastewater rates have significantly increased. The cost of recent expansion of the water treatment plant was to be supported by Phase 2 of the residential development, which has been delayed. Until that development is finished, should these temporary costs be shared by residences and businesses throughout the whole township until the Phase 2 development is complete?

Bennett:	This is a user pay proposition, should all of the township look to others within the township for assistance when wells or septic systems fail ? Water and wastewater systems are designed to manage costs at certain levels of capacity. Council needs to move to bring the number of users up to capacity without delay. Therein is the relief.
Graham:	I take issue with the statement that the rates have recently increased. In 2021, despite the recommended rate increases, our Council voted on a 0% rate increase out of respect to the pressures of the pandemic. Now, we have continued to postpone the necessary increases to a 1.5% cap through 2025 to allow the anticipated growth to occur. We have a user pay system, so the costs need to be borne by the users as there are no municipal supports when rural wells need reconstruction or digging. The best we can do is continue to apply for grants like ICIP and alternative sources of funding for the huge costs of this infrastructure.

17. Cavan Monaghan has an active arts scene with many artists and cultural events, such as the renowned 4th Line Theatre, which add value to our community. In your opinion, what opportunities does council have to support and promote the arts and culture in Cavan Monaghan? Do you have any ideas you would like to see implemented if elected?

Bennett:	Ensuring we continue to support our arts communities is very important . We have a very supportable community ranging from visual to stage activity. Marketing to improve exposure is 101 in the business world. CM punches way outside its weight as we are blessed with very highly skilled artists.
Graham:	I think Council has always been gracious and supportive of the arts community. We usually welcome partnerships or staff support for various events including providing special event designations. I am sure the next Council will be open to suggestions from the arts community for support, and we are very fortunate to have the 4th Line Theatre and all of the activities and tourism they bring to our community.

18. In your opinion, what services can Council offer or improve on to assist local seniors to age in place?

Bennett:	Enhanced medical services and facilities is key to assisting .I have reached out to and will meet with the Family Health network Team ASAP to start the process. As a senior I have kept up on changes, staying active is imperative to aging well. We can assist with facilities to encourage that.
Graham:	One of the CIP expansion programs I am hoping will be included in future years of the program are funds specifically designed to renovate and improve the accessibility of homes for seniors in our community. I'd like to also expand this to also uniquely support the creation of accessible secondary suites that can allow seniors to potentially downsize while still living on their property.