

# WARD 1 (North Monaghan) CANDIDATES



**Bob Walsh**



**Nelson Edgerton**

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

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| Walsh:    | The Township of Cavan Monaghan (TCM) is facing profound complex change on three fronts: massive development pressure; threats of annexation by Peterborough of valuable commercial land; significant opportunity to develop our commercial and industrial lands in an intelligent way. I believe I have particular skills to help solve these issues, and North Monaghan Ward is the main location for these issues. I do not own any investment property in TCM nor do I have any other commercial interests or relationships with developers. My motivation is simply to make sure these large changes do not ruin the specialness of where we live, and in fact make TCM even better. |
| Edgerton: | I am a life-long resident of North Monaghan and served for 15 years as Cavan Monaghan Fire Chief and emergency management coordinator. I was also a volunteer firefighter with the department for 20 years and on by-law enforcement. For 5 years I was also Director of the Water and Wastewater services. During that time there was an addition to Fire Hall #2 and to the Wastewater Plant, and both of these projects came on time and on budget. I also operated a Well Drilling business for 20 years in the community.   |

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

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| Walsh:    | My career as a lawyer, regulator (at the Ontario Securities Commission) and corporate finance executive has involved dealing with complex problems, negotiating with multiple stakeholders, to find the right solutions. Apart from work, I have experience bringing people together on hard problems, in particular as a co-founder of the group that pushed for and achieved the nearby Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park. |
| Edgerton: | See above.  |

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

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| Walsh:    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing annexation of our lands by Peterborough, and instead ensuring the economic potential of our commercial lands directly benefits the residents of Cavan Monaghan.</li> <li>• Developing an overall vision plan and document for Cavan Monaghan which will guide us for the next 10 years. This is not the Official Plan document but is a plain English vision document developed with significant public input, with ongoing public input. This is the approach developed by some other forward looking towns and cities in Ontario.</li> <li>• Ensuring we have a sustainable fiscal approach that keeps our taxes down.</li> </ul> |
| Edgerton: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep Peterborough out- no annexation</li> <li>2. Allow growth to continue but only on non-agricultural land</li> <li>3. Get more medical services for our community</li> <li>4. More parks and recreational opportunities- particularly in North Monaghan</li> </ol>  |

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

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| Walsh:    | Currently TCM Council has five committees that include residents. These committees are primarily focused on Millbrook. I will push for three new committees: a Rural and Agricultural Lands Committee; an Airport, Airport Lands and Industrial Lands Committee; and an Environmental and Watershed Committee. All will include members of the public from North Monaghan and the other Wards. A key role of each of these committees will be to help create the very important TCM vision document noted above. |
| Edgerton: | We need better communication, face to face situations work best.   |

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

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| Walsh:    | <p>This is a very important question. Despite significant efforts by the current Council and staff, public awareness and participation is low. I will push for three new outreach initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific role of each of the Council committees will be to have public participation at their meetings, including by rotating the location of their meetings around the Township</li> <li>• An aggressive new social media push by Council and Council staff on all key Township matters</li> <li>• Specific outreach by Council and Council staff to the new and emerging grassroots resident groups</li> </ul> |
| Edgerton: | Put more information on the township website and consider bringing back a township newsletter for those who do not use computers.  |

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

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| Walsh:    | Road safety. As both Cavan Monaghan and Peterborough both grow, many of our roads have become throughfares. Council should take a more protective approach to speed limits, electronic speed signs and should investigate photo radar.   |
| Edgerton: | Our Ambulance service needs work. How often are our volunteer firefighters dragged out of bed to answer an emergency call only to arrive at the scene to see the taillights of an ambulance that has already responded? Better communication between paramedic and fire service staff would reduce unnecessary calls. We need to find a way to unload patients at the ER to get the ambulances back on the road ready to |

respond to the next call.

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

**Walsh:** Business attraction, growth and development must be a priority. The Millbrook Chamber of Commerce is very good, but a more holistic approach for the Township is now necessary with the Peterborough and Kawartha Chamber of Commerce. Our development approach absolutely must not be tied to suburban housing sprawl, but instead to innovative mixed development that promotes business and jobs, and written site plan controls that provide clarity for business development.

**Edgerton:** Kawartha Downs presents an opportunity to build commercial, residential and entertainment facilities on marginal agricultural land. It also has great transportation access due to its location.

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?

**Walsh:** As noted above, there should be a new Council committee focussed on rural and agricultural lands. This would be made up of councillors and the public and would be permanently focused on the issues and needs of our rural and agricultural communities. Development should be moved away from higher quality agricultural lands to other lands. Council should investigate creating a community farm as a bridge between agricultural and Village residents.

**Edgerton:** Farmers should be allowed to sever off a lot of marginal land on their properties to build homes for themselves or their families. There should be a penalty to property owners of agricultural land where fields are not cultivated but are left to grow weeds.

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?

**Walsh:** I am strongly against annexation. All of our candidates are. However, the harder question is what I will do to ensure annexation does not happen. Peterborough politicians have a track record of excluding TCM Council from key regional discussions (for example regarding the airport). I will ensure we are not excluded from discussions with the Province and any other stakeholders. As noted above, I have proposed a new TCM Council committee regarding the Airport and commercial lands – a key role is to develop our own vision and plan to start developing these lands.

**Edgerton:** I am not in favour.

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?

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| Walsh:    | While the old arena can continue to be used for indoor sports, this use should be continued. However, the costs to refurbish the arena to new legal standards applicable in 2025 are prohibitive (estimated at \$5-6 million). Instead, new plans should immediately start to create a new indoor facility in coming years, with an aggressive effort to find grants and economic sponsors. Accordingly, in due course the old arena should be demolished and replaced with the visionary plan proposed for a town green, which will stimulate local small business in the area. |
| Edgerton: | We should keep the arena open for now as it provides an indoor facility when the weather is poor. Kids need activities. We should watch the revenue and expenses of maintaining it until it no longer makes sense to keep it going.  |

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?

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| Walsh:    | Council has already been very focused on its emissions and being greener. But this must be a continuous improvement exercise. We need to do a fresh audit of all direct and indirect sources of emissions and find ways to reduce these. It is well established that car transportation, sprawl and loss of farmland are the big municipal contributors to greenhouse gases. The future vision for the Township needs to be planned out in detail and not unfold in a piecemeal way development by development. |
| Edgerton: | Cavan Monaghan has a climate change action plan already in place and approved by the government. We should make sure we follow it.  |

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?

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| Walsh:    | As both Cavan Monaghan and Peterborough both grow, many of our roads have become thoroughfares. Council should take a more protective approach to speed limits, electronic speed signs and should investigate photo radar. |
| Edgerton: | Electronic speed signs telling drivers how fast they are going are the best tools to manage speeding. Speed bumps are not the answer as they create damage to road maintenance and emergency equipment.                    |

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?

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| Walsh:    | Peterborough politicians have a track record of excluding TCM Council from key regional discussions, including in particular regarding the airport. I will ensure we are not excluded from discussions with the Province and any other stakeholders. As noted above, I have proposed a new TCM Council committee regarding the Airport and commercial lands – a key role is to develop our own vision and plan to start developing these lands. |
| Edgerton: | We should work with the City of Peterborough and encourage water servicing from   |

Kawartha Downs if it can be done.

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?

Walsh:

Yes. As noted above I believe there should be a new TCM Council committee focused on the environment and watershed. We also need more recreational green space. Apart from the Millbrook trail system there is relatively little. We should collaborate with partners to see if we can add more property, for example the Nature Conservancy and the Kawartha Land Trust. Jail Hill should be protected as a green space

Edgerton:

We must protect the environment and water. There is new technology in incineration where scrubbers ensure the air that is emitted is clean. In other areas, pollutants including tires and old shingles are incinerated, keeping them out of the landfill.

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?

Walsh:

I would listen to any resident on any issue. This is particularly important for a new Councillor. I am mindful that the current Council spent an inordinate amount of time on this issue, and “finally” resolved it - I am very respectful and appreciative of that. However, every new councillor has a duty to inform and educate herself/himself. Accordingly, I would welcome any conversation on this issue, and if I came to the view that a majority of North Monaghan residents favoured reopening discussion at Council then I would advocate that.

Edgerton:

The opposing sides of this situation should sit down and talk to each other. I am in favour of opening township roads with guidelines limiting when they can operate on the roads – ie time of day and in sensitive areas such as near churches. Most ORV operators are respectful and want to weed out the ones who are not as they give all ORV operators a bad name.

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?

Walsh:

No. Services should be user-funded and people who do not have services should not share the cost. The current water rates should be a wakeup call to all of us – the idea that development pays for development just isn’t true. This model relies on current ratepayers funding infrastructure for new development. It isn’t until development fees are collected from new residential development fees that some of the pressure is relieved from current ratepayers but then new infrastructure will need to be funded. The issue with “through the roof” water rates and other such fees will continue to arise

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|                  | as long as council buys into this funding model. There are not enough current residents to fund the proposed scale of development with this method without a great deal of pain. We need to move away from dependence on this flawed model and seek other funding models that have worked elsewhere. |
| <b>Edgerton:</b> | No. Water and Wastewater services should be paid for by the users only. The costs of the system should be re-examined to see if there is a way to make it less expensive.  |

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?

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| <b>Walsh:</b>    | Fostering the arts is an important part of the fabric of the community – it pulls us together - and is also a great commercial opportunity. The popularity of 4th Line shows that the interest in theatre and local entertainment has a lot of potential. Supporting the arts comes back to planning and the creation and support of a vibrant and dynamic backdrop that will keep the area on the radar as a place to visit and to enjoy leisure and recreation. The Cavan Arts Academy is a terrific initiative. Council has the opportunity to support the growth of this and other similar initiatives by working with organizations to attract attention to their programs. |
| <b>Edgerton:</b> | We can help art organizations with zoning to help them get started.  |

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

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| <b>Walsh:</b>    | We need more medical facilities, for our seniors and for our entire population. While this is not squarely in the power of Council, Council must take a leadership role in searching out solutions. Council can help ensure our seniors have services and housing that is accessible and walkable and not car dependent. My proposed detailed Vision Plan for TCM would consider these needs. Again, lack of planning leads to a void that gets filled by developers – we need to guide development, not the other way around. |
| <b>Edgerton:</b> | Council can speed up the approval process for creating granny flats and encourage the creation of smaller houses that meet the needs and budgets of seniors. More medical services in the community will also help our seniors.  |