

WARD 2 (Cavan area)



Gerry Byrne



Janet Heeringa



Valerie Kent



Bill Shaw

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

Byrne:	I have gone to a lot of council meetings over a lot of years and seen problems I am not happy with . That combined with 50 or more neighbors across the entire township , who are long time friends , have told me for years they think I would be good as a councillor .I deliberated long and hard about this and it has come down to " put up or shut up " .
Heeringa:	I have grown up in Ward 2 and now have chosen to raise my family here. I feel I can have the most meaningful impact as the Ward 2 Councillor.
Kent:	I am running as a Councillor in Ward 2 because I have lived here for 7 years running a business and being part of the community. I have a vision of a Cavan Monaghan that is a mix of urban and rural, a place people want to live and to visit because it has so much to offer. I see successful businesses, industry and a wonderful place to prosper.
Shaw:	To follow through on my late wife's vision (now my vision) to have a whole Cavan Monaghan twp with good medical services, recreation facilities for the entire twp, good potential with industrial and commercial growth occurring along with residential

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

Byrne:	Does not apply , but I have some .
Heeringa:	I have a lifetime of experience in agriculture, and today I am a licensed paralegal with intricate knowledge of how the legal system works and how laws, by-laws, and legislation affect the municipal level. I also have learned the skill of interpreting legislation which is very useful when looking at various Acts, such as the Highway Traffic Act.
Kent:	I owned and operated a number of small businesses. I learned new technologies, how to work within budgets, watch the overhead and be concerned about tax hikes. I am approachable, I listen and I respond in a timely way.

Shaw:	I currently have 8 months as councillor for ward 2. The previous 3 years was spent in consultation with my wife while we discussed options for various twp plans as they were formulated.
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3. What are your top 3 priorities for Cavan Monaghan?

Byrne:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. first allow ATV's on our roads - in large part to it being to easiest to fix. 2. Getting a handle on the plans that are in the works with the developers that we don't maybe know about . 3. Making sure every tax payer in the community gets treated fairly. One set for everyone .
Heeringa:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Responsible fiscal spending, including taxation b) Support for our local agriculture community and the issues faced and c) Supporting and developing our local economy with local business and resident input. Growth is inevitable, but with community input, this can be managed at a rate all residents are happy with.
Kent:	<p>Now is the time to focus in on high residential taxes. Money just does not go as far. We must find ways to save. It follows that Economic Development is the way for the Town to prosper and the generated taxes will help reduce the high costs that we have. Leisure and Recreation is a priority for families, children, adults, and seniors. Providing green spaces, sports facilities, venues for arts and culture events and activities contribute to the health and happiness of residents.</p>
Shaw:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Assure completion of the new Fire Hall with Paramedic facilities. 2: Look for ways to enhance medical care in the community (more medical practitioners). 3: It's time to spend some of our recreational budget in the rest of the TWP, not just in Millbrook.

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

Byrne:	Online stuff is a great technology with some real potential but I do not agree it deserves the weight and value that the present council puts on it . This township does not have good and reliable internet access everywhere . Sometimes it is too expensive for people to have , some don't want it. It is wrong to marginalize or disenfranchised those members of the community. Also the transfer station was one of the best community spirit type things we had in the community and council and our management team have worked to limit that good aspect for years. Fortunately with the hard work of Tom and now Richard it has managed to survive the virus lockdowns and poor policies .
Heeringa:	Strong communities have a meaningful sense of purpose. Promoting events and community activities can build a sense of community. Council plays a vital role in community development, and they are the link that influences our sense of community.
Kent:	Whether or not it is a time of change, all people of Cavan Monaghan are valued members of the community. We must foster understanding through dialogue, education, outreach and connection.
Shaw:	Open communication through various methods including more varied social media and local electronic types of bulletin boards. Listen to people for suggestions that

make sense and follow through.

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

Byrne:	Refer to question # 4 .. The sign we have at the entrance to " city hall " and the new hockey rink could have been done so much better. Case in point just down the road at the millbrook elementary school they have a digital billboard sign that you can actually read when you drive by . It gets your Attention and it is completely programmable and it costs about the same money I believe as the useless one we bought. Not everyone drives down county road 10. I know that but enough people do and if we could get the word out to members of the township I think people would talk and word would spread .
Heeringa:	Online platforms are the current way to best reach a broader range of community members. Younger community members engage with online platforms more, and increased younger member communications are achieved through various online platforms.
Kent:	A "community engagement site" on line is needed to engage the public. We must emphasize that we want to know the views of the residents, no matter what and be responsive.
Shaw:	Same answer as #4.

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

Byrne:	I have been to council meetings in years past where present council has been told by paid consultants and by people who know about maintaining and building roads of the importance of brushing back the townships road allowances. As I went in and out of all but less than a dozen driveways in Ward 2 as I was knocking on front doors over the last 30 plus days it was easy to see the safety hazard this township has let happen. I have not talked to anyone who wants to drive 50 KMS per hour on every road in our township every day . So I would like to fix the real problems first and show discretion on speed limits . You only have to look to Mt Pleasant and Lily Lake road to see how sometimes good intentions result in bad choices .
Heeringa:	Emergency Responder services and times need to increase, and I have recently learned there are two ambulance bays slotted to be included with the new Firehall plans.
Kent:	A key service that Cavan Monaghan delivers is safety provided by the volunteer Fire Department. With 60 volunteer fire personnel, the fire fighters are there whenever they are needed. A new firehall and new equipment is on the way.
Shaw:	Most complaints are directed at roads and road services, and as a key service, we can start here. Improvements are in place for new maintenance facilities which should keep our vehicles on the road a greater percentage of the time, allowing for quicker snow removal and better summer operation.

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

Byrne:	We missed to mark , if land had been serviced out near the airport years ago , those marginal lands as far as farming goes could have been populated by businesses that would have been a good revenue stream for this township . It is not too late , with cooperation hopefully from The new owners of Kawartha Downs and a new council and maybe some good planning with the priority being the good of the township it could be done. During this virus lockdown experiment there was a huge demand for that type of controlled expansion that should have benefited this township .
Heeringa:	Various business incentives can help attract and having business involvement with important decisions helps incentivize businesses to remain.
Kent:	Targeting business and industry to the township is a great investment. Having and keeping a viable labour force will retain business and Industry. Skills training can be done in-house, at the college, the university or by trade unions. We want people to invest in Cavan Monaghan.
Shaw:	With our increasing residential populations, a labour force is growing and will be looking for local employment where possible. Land with a less than "Prime Agricultural" designation can be used for commercial and agricultural applications.

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?

Byrne:	Stop taxing people to the breaking point . We already have a federal gov't that is working against our domestic farmers on a daily basis and here in this township , there has been a concerted effort to raise land taxes . Then they want to restrict severances so a person working his whole life farming is looking at selling the family farm to developers rather than working for nothing .
Heeringa:	Succession planning and land division have become an issue for the agriculture community within our township. Currently, severing farmland for profits of succession planning is very difficult, if not impossible, and this restricts future income and land usage for farmers and landowners within our township.
Kent:	By working together with the agricultural community and other stakeholders, Council may be able to expand support by accessing all levels of government and exploring what incentives and grants programs are offered.
Shaw:	We can ensure that "Prime Agricultural" land is not used for commercial and industrial applications. That families are encouraged to stay on the farm, help to recognize government subsidies intended for families are available to these families when they are needed.

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?

Byrne:	No- Absolutely not , Jeff Leal was part of the " Dalton -Katheline " dynasty that almost bankrupted this province through poor planning and poor policies .
Heeringa:	I do not support the annexation of these lands. The city of Peterborough has their own issues and needs to deal with those issues within its own borders. Cavan Monaghan

	will develop those lands to best suit the needs of our community, despite the city of Peterborough.
Kent:	It is a complex process and there would need to be a compelling reason, such as no space for growth, for a successful application to annex to the province. Right now, according to the Peterborough Official Plan, there is no compelling reason.
Shaw:	I could not support any discussion that would reduce Cavan Monaghan footprint on the map of Ontario. Cavan Monaghan needs a varied tax base to assure our economic future, should the 4000 acres of land be removed from our map, a large percentage of our possible industrial income would disappear.

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?

Byrne:	Having a roof in Canada is a no brainer . Not only does it still snow in Canada , the spring and fall is still cool and often rains . Reasonably predictable .
Heeringa:	I feel an excellent option for the old arena would be to convert this into a community athletic building. Multiple sports could be played within the area, rental income can be garnered by larger teams using the facility, and smaller, more personal, or community athletics could be offered within.
Kent:	Renovating the arena, even at a cost, would be prudent. Children need the indoor space and benefit from sport. The jail lands are ideal for an outdoor stage, arts in the park, picnic areas, outdoor recreational areas and with consultation more wonderful uses can be identified.
Shaw:	Short term; the building is still a serviceable indoor facility, and should be kept as such for as long as economically feasible. Long Term: I believe the building will be demolished, when that time arrives, current public opinion will be sought to arrive at an appropriate land use. Many of the above suggestions are valid and may well be when the time arrives.

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?

Byrne:	Predictable - computer models are just rungs of computer code that do basic math . If you put the wrong data in ,you end up with the wrong answer. I have no use for people who yell fire in a crowded room just to benefit from the stampede they cause. I would like to see solutions that have merit and a reasonable chance of success. Here in Ontario we pay people 80 cent per kilowatt hour to produce electricity from solar panels while at the same time letting water flow over Niagara Falls instead of down a pipe to make electricity the most environmentally friendly and cheapest way (around 5 to 10 cents a kilowatt hour) that technology allows us to
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	do today .
Heeringa:	Council can aim to reduce community greenhouse gas output through community initiatives such as the green waste program and more. By becoming more energy efficient and using renewable energy sources (such as solar energy)
Kent:	Climate Change must come with climate action in everything we do. Use green products and services. We must work towards zero emissions as a township. We need to have a plan in place for a safe space in case there is a weather emergency.
Shaw:	Aspects of climate change have been discussed at council. We can do our part by participating in as many climate change mitigation efforts as we can; enlarged catch basins for runoff, spillways that keep excess water away from residences. We are participating in more energy efficient construction (our new Fire hall is being built to a LEEDS certification standard of energy efficiency). I have no doubt that as municipal vehicles are replaced, EV's will be considered and/or fuel efficiency will be a dominating factor in future purchases.

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?

Byrne:	refer to question # 6
Heeringa:	Council can aim to reduce community greenhouse gas output through community initiatives such as the green waste program and more. By becoming more energy efficient and using renewable energy sources (such as solar energy)
Kent:	Road safety on the 220+ km of roads is a concern for everyone. The township is now working on reducing speeds. Speed banners, rumble strips, digital speed monitors, and big ticket enforcement may help.
Shaw:	This is an ongoing topic of discussion. Various methods are being looked at. Speed humps, Electronic speed displays (like what is on the way into Millbrook from the North (I know it works for me)), even photo radar is being looked into. We should evaluate any and all to see where each has worked (or not worked) and see where or if any of the methods can be applied.

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?

Byrne:	refer to question # 9 With good planning and support from the business community I see a huge opportunity to service land out near the Airport in spite of the city of Peterborough for the benefit of our township .The right partnership and cooperation will be able to pay the upfront cost of such a project so as not to impact local taxpayers , with costs being recouped over a reasonable time frame as to make it do able . That area of our township is a prime location , close to the hwy # 115 and hwy #28 (even with the bottle neck created with that poorly designed roundabout) the proximity to road and air should attract a lot of potential investors with the priority remaining on the good of the township .
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Heeringa:	The city may own the airport, but Cavan Monaghan owns and has the right to develop the lands around the airport. These lands are a prime example of where development best suits our township.
Kent:	Cavan Monaghan should start development of the airport lands with services and infrastructure for its own projects: business and industry and residences. The Peterborough Master Plan specifies that it will update the aging water and wastewater services at the airport.
Shaw:	I believe this area is Cavan Monaghan's most valuable land asset and should be developed from an industrial aspect. We do own a small area of land that has access to the Otonabee river where we could bring in water, treat it in modular facilities to provide potable water to hopefully growing industrial sites. Waste water can be treated in similar modular facilities and returned to the river.

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?

Byrne:	Yes , if the costs of such research is reasonable .
Heeringa:	
Kent:	I support the development of an Environmental and Watershed Plan for the township. It will bring us closer to being able to protect, enhance and conserve the sensitive areas now and in the future.
Shaw:	I agree, every municipality should have a comprehensive Environmental Plan, Water, although sometimes we have too much of it, is our most valuable asset.

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?

Byrne:	Responsible use of ATV's should be allowed on our roads . The so-called " Consultation and Deliberation " , I was at council meetings where informed people spoke to council on how well programs were working in surrounding areas and offered to help us any way they could . I believe our present council had done their own survey that showed a large support for ATV's on the roads. I have talked to upwards of a thousand people or more while I have gone from door to door since Aug 20 th . And it has been very clear the majority of residents in Ward # 2 are in favour of the responsible use of ATV's on our roads .
Heeringa:	I agree that ORVs should be allowed on our roads.
Kent:	ORVs are legal vehicles, much like other legal vehicles that share the roads. There are all kinds of vehicles that are using the roads. As long as ORV riders are law

	abiding, conform to all the road safety requirements, they should be allowed to use the roads.
Shaw:	<p>I do feel that they will get access to the roads in the near future due to recent changes to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. The vote that was defeated contained no recognition of regulation at all and was the prime reason I voted against it. Without regulations the ORV operators would be in a "free for all" condition without recourse. I have since researched other municipalities results and regulations that have been put in place. Should the ORV group reopen the discussion, and I am pretty sure they will, the only way I can see to allow it to happen is to ensure there are as many regulations in place as possible to assure a high level of safety for operators and the public.</p> <p>I would agree to a trial period where the public could have input during, and at the end of the trial period. A true community decision would be made at the end of this trial period.</p>

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?

Byrne:	NO - the water bills in Millbrook are the result of the planning of "user pay " put in place over the last ten years or so by council and are the direct result of the campaign " not a drop of water " for Kawartha Downs years ago . NO WAY should the taxpayers outside the serviced village be forced to pay for that service . Those taxpayers look after and maintain their own septic systems at their own cost and are worried that more development will ruin their wells which have been reliable for decades . Then who will pay for new wells for those affected ?
Heeringa:	No, the rural residents have other ways in which they have to pay for water, such as wells and the upkeep required.
Kent:	Water and wastewater are very expensive for people in Millbrook. Millbrook needs to recuperate the money used to build the service. Phase 2 of the subdivision will bring in taxes that will help Millbrook residents to pay less because they will share the debt. Could the debt be amortized over a longer period so that the Millbrook people can pay less until Phase 2 shares in the cost?
Shaw:	Besides being illegal (provincial laws state that this type of service is to be "user pay"), this would open up a large contingent of complaints from those not on a municipal water system. I know that when we replaced our water pump 2 years ago, the cost was \$2300. To have our septic tank pumped was around \$450. Should a new septic system be needed, the cost could approach \$20,000. I am not too sure the people who are asking for this "sharing of expenses" would appreciate the possible liabilities involved. The cost of having your own water systems is "user pay", and pay you do.

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?

Byrne:	refer to question # 5
Heeringa:	We have a wonderful art community, and adding spaces to our township to appreciate the arts and what is offered would be a significant step towards supporting our arts community.
Kent:	An Arts Council with a Director is a needed to promote and nurture the arts in Cavan Monaghan. We need arts in the park, concerts spaces, indoors and outdoors and a small theatre venue. We need an arts guidebook and an online directory of local artists and their work. Pairing arts and other businesses will establish a tourism destination.
Shaw:	Governments of any stripe are notoriously poor at creating arts initiatives, and often waste significant amounts of money for little return. Should a private initiative be presented (this shows a passion for a project) I would support it with all my heart. I am a technical guy and do not have the imagination for the arts myself, but can recognize imagination and offer support when needed.

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

Byrne:	Stop doubling taxes in the last 10 years . The local economy can not support those increases and council is essentially forcing people and sometimes founding families that built this township to sell by adding to the burden already inflicted on them by all layers of Gov't .
Heeringa:	Healthcare services for aging township residents and various programs can help residents age in place.
Kent:	We need an age-friendly municipality. This is a commitment to bring together health, social services and other helping organizations. We must support the needs of older people and help them stay active. We need to seek input of seniors so they can decide what they need and want. They want to lead meaningful lives with respect and inclusion.
Shaw:	I believe the #1 need to allow seniors to age in place is accessible local medical care. A facility for more medical practitioners would assist them and make them feel more at ease to stay in their home. Secondly, some type of ride share program that would allow some freedom when driving is not allowed. I am open to ideas that will enable seniors to be in their own home for as long as possible.