

Inaugural Council Meeting  
Town of Tecumseh  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

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Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us at the Town of Tecumseh's inaugural celebration this evening.

We acknowledge we are on the unceded territory of the Algonquin under the counsel of the three fires being the Ottawa, Ojibway and Potawatomi.

I would like to begin by extending a special acknowledgement and thanks to all of our families and friends for their support during the recent election. It is largely through your efforts and

encouragement that we stand here before you this evening.

To the residents of Tecumseh, we thank you for your trust and confidence. As your new Council, we accept this privilege to serve you. You have our steadfast assurance that we will continue to build on the solid foundation laid by previous Council and our commitment to provide quality service, to tax fairly, to spend prudently and to manage wisely.

You also have our commitment that we will work together in the best interests of the Town. We will put our personal interests aside and work together in a

spirit of cooperation - honestly and with integrity -  
because the residents of Tecumseh deserve nothing  
less.

To my returning colleagues, I say welcome back and  
to our newest member – I look forward to your input  
and fresh perspective.

I want to take a moment, in front of the whole  
community, to publicly pay tribute to my family (my  
wonderful wife Heather, son Sean and daughter-in-  
law Melissa, son Ryan and daughter-in-law Anne  
Marie, my three amazing grandchildren, Patrick,  
Emily and Isaac, my sister Deborah and brother-in-

law Len Babin) and our friends and supporters who have stood by me and walked at my side.

Your incredible friendships, insights, unfailing humour and caring ways have carried me once again to this day and to this honour. I thank you.

We are in exciting times but, as we all know, Council will face many challenges over the next four years.

Our current Provincial Government continues to deal with the Province's 15 billion dollar deficit and it is imperative for us to ensure that the government does

not balance their books at the expense of the municipal sector.

Just a reminder of the 1990s – we cannot forget that it took us 20 years to regain only 50% of what we lost.

Our residents are asking for something quite simple – that all orders of government work together and put every available resource into problem-solving, not into jockeying for position or political gain.

We all believe that the top priority for governments should be to provide the best and most cost-effective

services while, at the same time, controlling tax increases.

Regional cooperation is also critical. The City of Windsor provides an important range of services to Essex County and its member municipalities, like Tecumseh.

It is imperative that we have a strong working relationship and partnership with the City. The foundation of that partnership must be a fair and transparent cost and service structure.

As Mayor, I am committed to working with Mayor Dilkens and his Council and Administration at the City of Windsor for the betterment of the region.

I also look forward to maintaining the excellent relationships we have with the County of Essex and its lower tier municipalities, and embracing opportunities for enhanced cooperation and partnership as they arise.

By October 2019 we will be heading into a federal election. Over my past terms as Mayor I have forged a positive and effective working relationship with both

the federal and provincial levels of government, and have done so in a non-partisan way.

That is why I will remind both the Federal and Provincial Governments that they need to reward, not penalize, those municipalities that have taken full responsibility for their financial health when it comes to grant applications.

Large infrastructure projects cannot be completed by municipalities alone. Having made the hard choices and having your financial house in order should not be a drawback in obtaining infrastructure funding from the provincial or federal levels of government.

There is no question our infrastructure continues to be a priority. We have completed our life cycle plan and can now look to new capital initiatives including the finalization of the Lakewood Park Master Plan, and the continuation of the Community Improvement Plan for the revitalization of the Tecumseh Road business corridor, and Manning Road North final phases to be completed.

We will also continue our commitment to our rural residents to provide further service upgrades and finally, to build the long-awaited expansion to our SportsPlex.

As some of you know from experience, I could talk for hours about my vision for Tecumseh. As my time tonight is more limited, I would just like to touch on some of my additional priorities.

These include:

- Continuing to put Oldcastle on full municipal services
- Enhancing relationships with key community stakeholders

- Working with the County to increase Manning Road capacity, alignment of County Rd. 43 and County Road 42 improvements
- Exploring further transit opportunities and,
- Exploring inter-municipal services.

We have so much to be proud of in Tecumseh:  
Beautiful residential neighbourhoods, a varied commercial sector, rich agricultural land, a solid industrial base, and a wealth of parks and recreational facilities.

We are also blessed with a number of dedicated and hardworking volunteers that contribute greatly to the Town's quality of life.

It is now time to look to the future with a renewed sense of optimism; to build on the strengths of our community and our people, to be bold and be visionaries.

We are on the cusp of great opportunities. I quote from Socrates: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

But we can't do it alone. This is your Council. You have the right and, I hope, the desire to be part of the process. I hope you take the time to be informed and to express your views. Town Hall is always open to you and we are never more than a phone call away.

It is only by working together – informed residents, a talented and skilled Administrative staff dedicated to the highest standard of customer service, and an open and accessible Council – that Tecumseh can continue to move forward and remain one of the best places in Ontario in which to live, work, invest and play.

I will leave you with this old African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

I look forward to the next four years. It is an honour to continue serving as your Mayor.

Thank you and have a good evening.