

Maureen Harvey – Ward 4 Candidate – Conception Bay South



Lifelong resident of Conception Bay South – 41 years residing in the beautiful community of Seal Cove.

Married to Clayton Harvey of Seal Cove and mother to two beautiful daughters and grandma to three.

I love this town and everything it has to offer and I am challenged by the opportunities that lie ahead.

I have enjoyed a full career working with municipal governments for the past thirty-three years. Having recently retired, I am now available full time and looking forward to giving back to my community as a Candidate for Ward 4 in the Town of Conception Bay South and in a decision-making capacity.

Highlights of my municipal work experience include:

- Legislative Assistant, City of St. John's (2009-2021), worked closely with the Mayor, Councillors and City Clerk offices. This work included researching and responding to constituency issues and providing legislative and administrative support to council and committees.
- From 2003-2009 I worked with the Recreation Department of the City of Mount Pearl in an administrative capacity
- Town Clerk for the Town of Conception Bay South (1981-1997)

My experience and intimate knowledge of this level of government has taught me that it is at the municipal level that “grass roots” issues are addressed. Basic amenities such as water, sewer, fire protection, roads, garbage collection, snow clearing, and recreational opportunities are just a few. Unlike the soft services of other levels of government, municipal services are highly visible, tangible and vital to our daily living.

I am a responsive, consummate professional with an open and empathetic mind. My knowledge and experience, including the collaborative partnerships that I have developed over my 33-year municipal career, will allow me to “hit the ground running” and help move the town forward for the benefit of all.

1. How will you help support the business community and reduce red tape in your municipality?

Prior to any attempts to reduce red tape, it is important to understand the types of businesses – businesses are not all the same. Understanding the product and service offerings and identifying barriers or bottlenecks that hinder timely development approval process is a fundamental first step. As an example, considerations for the operation of a day care are vastly different than that of a restaurant. What is necessary for the town to process for some businesses is very different from others and likewise for businesses. Once categorized, one must review the processes and make every effort to remove the processes that are not mutually beneficial to the business and the municipality. The fundamental question is whether such processes add value to the outcomes.

This can be accomplished through the creation of a task force to identify specific issues of the business community. It should include stakeholders, senior municipal officials and also have Council representation.

2. As we continue to see the impacts of the pandemic, what can the municipality do to help businesses recover and grow?

Similar to the philosophy cited above, the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic are very different depending on the type of business. For example the tourism sector is impacted very differently than the retail sector and even different again for the construction sector. Several initiatives can be considered to help businesses address impact and grow/recover. These could include but are not limited to:

- round table discussion among businesses of similar type
- business tax deferral if the town's budget can facilitate such a service
- a “Shop Local” campaign
- hosting a job fair for businesses experiencing difficulty in recruitment and retention of employees

3. What are you, as an elected official going to do to help attract investors and new businesses to the area?

The topography and demographic of Conception Bay South is unique from that of neighbouring municipalities. The town first needs to understand the demographics. Understanding our population profile, the gaps in offerings can help inform business opportunities and the town can respond to it in a way that is inviting and progressive for investors and businesses alike. To that end, it is important to undertake the gathering of data to facilitate the creation of a gap analysis that will allow the town to identify who we are and where we want to go. This can only be accomplished through the creation of a strategic plan that includes a mission, preferred tangible outcomes and action plan to meet those outcomes.

4. If elected, what specific infrastructure changes, policies or strategies would you propose implementing to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the next four years?

We hear it all the time but do we truly understand what climate change is? And how can we respond to it without knowing?

Climate change refers to changes in the earth’s climates, at local, regional, or global scales, and is most commonly used to describe human-caused reasons for our changing climate. One of the fundamental objectives to reach “net zero” - contributing nothing to global warming ie. reduce emissions and take carbon out of the atmosphere.

It goes far beyond infrastructure and is the responsibility of each and every one of us. From the perspective of a municipality I propose the following:

- consideration of requirements and/or improvements to storm sewer systems
- creation of a climate change strategy including an asset management plan

- hosting and participating in education and awareness for residents and businesses alike
- capitalize on the availability of expertise from co-op students at post-secondary institutions
- collaboration with other neighbouring municipalities in the sharing of ideas and resources to address climate change issues – CBS is not in isolation as it relates to climate change
- access available funding, grants and opportunities laid out in provincial and federal programs

5. What value do you see in supporting an active Chamber of Commerce for the area?

I believe an active Chamber of Commerce is a collective voice for the area's business community and one the Town can utilize, by not only celebrating business, but addressing shortcomings and encouraging future growth. The value of this organization has no bounds. But it can only be truly effective with robust membership and active involvement.

To that end I propose the following:

- partnering with the Chamber on events and discussion of matters of mutual interest and benefit.
- providing and/or enhancing incentives for new businesses to join the Chamber.
- hosting round table discussions with the business community
- enhancing public recognition of new businesses so as to promote the sale of goods and services provided.
 - “Open House Business Fair”
 - welcome packages including coupons that businesses can share
 - welcome signage in prominent locations.