



Matt Wren

Committed to Community

Candidate for Brockville City Council
in the 2018 Municipal Election

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I have made Brockville my home for 29 years, and my wife Dana's family has been here for several generations. There has scarcely been a time during those 29 years that I haven't been involved in the community through service clubs, volunteering and trying to give back. In my professional career, as a funeral director I've been there to help Brockville and area families through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

Now we are at a point in a transitioning economy where Brockville needs more help. There will be a need for new faces on city council and I hope to be one of those new faces. I'm eager to get involved in helping shape the future of our city. I am ready to focus on the needs of our seniors, young families, local businesses and our waterfront and tourism initiatives.

As a Councillor, from me you can expect someone who approaches issues without pre-conceived notions. In my work as a funeral director, I suspect I have participated in more difficult conversations than most, and sometimes in very complex and emotional situations. This background has equipped me with the ability to listen, hear all sides of the issue, and make decisions in a fair, capable and respectful manner.

My Work Experience

- 2016 to Present: Business Development Officer, Guaranteed Funeral Deposits of Canada (Fraternal)
- 2016-2018 (Concurrent Role): Non-Full Time Academic Professor, Humber College, School of Health Sciences. Instructing in Ethics and Critical Thinking
- 1989-2007, 2009-2016: Funeral Director, Irvine Funeral Home and Chapel
- 2008-2009: Executive Vice President, Hulse Playfair & McGarry Funeral Homes
- 2007-2008: Director of Planning, Cole Funeral Services

My Education

- Humber College, School of Health Sciences: graduated with Honours in Funeral Service Education

My Professional Designation and Organizations

- Funeral Director Class 1, Licensed by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario
- Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals: Member of the board of directors 2004-2009, serving as President in 2008
- Ottawa District Funeral Service Association, Past President

Community Service

Currently serving as Chair of the Brockville Memorial Sabre Restoration Committee and a co-organizer, along with my wife of, the Annual Christmas Day Community Dinner. Over the years I've been a member of the Age Friendly Community committee; Past President of the Brockville Kiwanis Club, a member of Rotary, the Knights of Columbus, the Ad and Sales Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Brockville Country Club, and have volunteered with charitable causes including the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Society, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. In 2007 I co-founded the Unforgettables Fund, and by 2017 along with colleagues built a \$500,000 endowment fund held by the CHEO Foundation which provides aid to families after the loss of a child due to a life limiting illness.