

After 49-years...

Former farmer describes his plan to control taxes... fix roads... create new revenue... and see West Lincoln realize its full potential

While it sounds trite to call any town a diverse community, in West Lincoln it's a fact. The town of Smithville is urban. The surrounding areas and villages – so many there isn't room to list them all here – are rural. Together they make up the largest geographical municipality with the smallest population in Niagara.

This election year sees multiple candidates for mayor. Most have lived here all their lives. Some have farming backgrounds... others possess business experience. A number have served on Council.

Only one mayoral candidate has all that plus...

The diverse background necessary to understand the needs of all residents.

“For 16 years I enjoyed dairy farming in West Lincoln,” said Paul Keizer. “The hard work and dedication necessary to be a successful farmer helped prepare me to be a good mayor.”

In 1987 he brought the Home Hardware store to Smithville. Since 1990 he's owned and run PJK construction.

“As a business owner I shop in West Lincoln, and I employ local trades people.”

This is not the first time...

Paul has sought to serve West Lincoln residents. He spent three years as an alderman... two of those as chair of the Public Works Committee – the one with the largest budget. That's where he learned about road maintenance.

“In that term I believe we improved more roads than any previous council. We had a good working relationship. All six of us got along. I was part of a progressive council.”

Community service has always been part of Paul's life in West Lincoln.

“For several years I was a director on the Poultryfest Committee... including one year as chairman. Currently I'm serving my second term as president of the West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.”

Residents have told him...

Taxes are high enough. No more increases.

West Lincoln's residential - commercial balance is lopsided. One alderman told Paul the figure was 94 percent residential and 6 percent commercial.

“While I don't know if that's a fact, everybody knows that residential taxes are the greater portion. While a 60-40 range is ideal... getting to 70-30 would be great.

“I intend to focus on commercial growth, by developing land for business uses. The more businesses we keep here, the more dollars that stay here. That controls property taxes.”

Yet West Lincoln turns businesses away... with excessive regulation and lack of serviced commercially zoned land.

Businesses are taxed at a higher level, and they don't demand services. A lot of businesses don't even receive garbage pickup, because they pay for their own.

In addition to spending money here, businesses also create jobs – permanent jobs for adults, as well as part-time and seasonal jobs for young people.

And yet residents want and need more...

Recreational services... including a splash pad... skateboard park... senior center... and ice pad.

“I think a splash pad and a skateboard park are attainable without raising taxes, because they’re smaller projects. With community involvement and fundraising we should be able to provide those in the near future.”

Rural residents may wonder about the demand for those facilities.

“I’ve talked with young parents, and adults working with teenagers, and they’re very much in favour. As a member of Poultryfest I wanted to start work on them. And the recreation facilities that we build, in my opinion, need to be in town at the fairgrounds.”

He’s also in favour of a new ice pad – when it’s economically feasible.

Paul wants to examine a public-private partnership with lease-to-own options to make new recreation facilities affordable. For example, an agreement in which a company builds an arena, and after a time the town owns the facility. The details vary according to each situation.

The YMCA was a controversial issue that West Lincoln Council voted to support. Several candidates are willing to raise taxes to do so. Not Paul.

“I support the Grimsby YMCA, but not the \$420,000 of West Lincoln taxpayers’ money going to it. People in the country don’t see anything for their taxes besides garbage pickup and plowing. So they want good roads. That certainly is a concern I’ve addressed in my platform. And I’m sure there’s a plan for roadwork, as we’ve heard. Yet pulling money out of public works to expand recreation facilities, while postponing road improvements for years, isn’t serving West Lincoln taxpayers.”

This election also involves the issue of renewable energy, which the current provincial regime appears to treat as a religion. New regulations allow anybody to erect a windmill almost anywhere, regardless of consequences.

“While I support green energy, not at the cost of your health and property value decline.”

Paul Keizer is qualified to be West Lincoln mayor because...

As a **farmer**... he understands the needs of the agricultural community.

As an **alderman**... he understands how to work with people *and* the system to achieve results.

As a **business owner**... he understands how to serve and satisfy customers.

“As your mayor... you are my customer. I’m responsible to you. I value your opinion. What do you want to tell your mayor? I’m listening...”

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When Paul Keizer is mayor you can expect...

1. Controlled taxes by bringing in more businesses
2. Improved roads
3. More services when economically feasible

Only about 4,000 votes were cast in West Lincoln four years ago. This time YOU CAN make a difference... more than in any other election.

On October 25 vote Paul Keizer mayor of West Lincoln

YouTube.com/paulkeizerformayor