

Cobourg Municipal Election Analysis: 1994–2022

Executive Summary

This briefing document provides a comprehensive analysis of municipal election results in Cobourg from 1994 to 2022. The data reveals a historical landscape defined by strong incumbency advantages, the emergence of multi-term political figures, and a significant shift in leadership during the 2022 election cycle.

Critical Takeaways:

- **High Incumbency Success:** Historically, incumbents have enjoyed an 88%-win rate. Out of 24 recorded incumbent runs, 21 resulted in victories.
- **2022 Leadership Shift:** The 2022 election was notable for the defeat of two high-ranking incumbents: Mayor John Henderson and Deputy Mayor Suzanne Seguin.
- **Dominant Historical Figures:** Candidates such as Gil Brocanier, Peter Delanty, Bob Spooner, and Bill Macdonald maintained perfect 100%-win rates across four election cycles each.
- **Tightening Margins:** While some historical races were won by thousands of votes, the 2022 Mayoral race was decided by a narrow margin of just 105 votes.

Incumbency and Candidate Performance

The stability of Cobourg’s municipal government has historically relied on the re-election of sitting members. However, recent data suggests this trend is not absolute.

Incumbency Statistics

Category	Metric
Total Incumbent Runs	24
Incumbent Wins	21
Incumbent Losses	3
Incumbency Win Rate	88%

Top-Performing Candidates

The following candidates achieved perfect win records across four or more elections (Note: Bill Macdonald is credited with four wins in summary statistics despite a loss in 2010):

- **Bob Spooner:** 4 Wins (100% Win Rate). Served as Councillor and Deputy Mayor between 1997 and 2006. His 2000 Deputy Mayor victory was by a massive margin of 3,833 votes.
- **Gil Brocanier:** 4 Wins (100% Win Rate). Served as Councillor, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor between 2003 and 2014.
- **Peter Delanty:** 4 Wins (100% Win Rate). Served as Councillor and Mayor between 1997 and 2006.
- **Bill Macdonald:** 4 Wins (100% Win Rate). Served as Councillor between 1994 and 2006.

Mayoral Election Analysis (1994–2022)

The Mayoralty has seen periods of long-term stability followed by competitive transitions.

- **Joan Chalovich (1994–2000):** Won in 1994 and 1997 but was defeated as an incumbent in 2000 by Peter Delanty.
- **Peter Delanty (2000–2010):** Secured the Mayoralty in 2000 with 70.1% of the vote. He was acclaimed in 2003 and won again in 2006.
- **Gil Brocanier (2010–2018):** Transitioned from Deputy Mayor to Mayor in 2010 with 69.5% of the vote and was re-elected in 2014 with 52.6%.
- **John Henderson (2018–2022):** Acclaimed as Mayor in 2018 but lost his re-election bid in 2022.
- **Lucas Cleveland (2022–Present):** Won the 2022 election in a highly competitive two-way race, securing 50.8% of the vote.
- **Margin of Victory:** 105 votes.

2022 Mayoral Race Detail

Candidate	Votes	Vote Share %	Outcome
Lucas Cleveland	3,391	50.8%	Won
John Henderson (Incumbent)	3,286	49.2%	Lost

Deputy Mayoral Election Analysis

The Deputy Mayor role has frequently served as a platform for future Mayoral candidates or as a stronghold for long-term incumbents.

- **Nicole Beatty (2022):** Defeated incumbent Suzanne Seguin with 58.1% of the vote, a margin of 1,066 votes.
 - **Suzanne Seguin (2018–2022):** Won in 2018 with 56.6% of the vote but lost in 2022.
 - **John Henderson (2014):** Won with 43% of the vote in a three-way race before moving to the Mayoralty.
 - **Stan Frost (2010):** Won by acclamation.
 - **Gil Brocanier (2006):** Won with 54.4% of the vote.
 - **Bob Spooner (2000–2003):** Dominated the 2000 election with 78.5% of the vote and won again in 2003 with 64.6%.
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Councillor Election Trends

The Councillor races typically involve the highest number of candidates and the most volatile vote distributions.

2022 Councillor Results

In 2022, ten candidates vied for five positions.

1. **Adam Bureau:** 4,111 votes (Incumbent - Won)
2. **Brian Darling:** 3,761 votes (Incumbent - Won)
3. **Aaron Burchat:** 3,412 votes (Incumbent - Won)
4. **Miriam Mutton:** 3,260 votes (Won)
5. **Randy Barber:** 2,532 votes (Won)

Notable Historical Councillor Performances

- **Miriam Mutton:** A recurring figure in Cobourg politics, Mutton won Councillor seats in 2006, 2010, and 2022. She also ran for Mayor in 2014 and Councillor in 2018 without winning.
- **Brian Darling:** Maintained a 100% win rate across three elections (2014, 2018, 2022).
- **Aaron Burchat:** Successfully won in 2018 and 2022 after an unsuccessful run in 2014.
- **Theresa Rickerby:** Achieved the second-highest Councillor vote count in 2014 with 4,660 votes.

Competition and Voter Engagement

The density of the candidate field has fluctuated significantly over the years, impacting the vote share required to win.

Candidate Volume by Year (Councillor Race)

Year	Candidates	Total Votes Cast
1994	16	26,900
2000	11	29,974
2006	11	29,520
2014	12	31,436
2022	10	27,123

Significant Margins and Tight Races

- **Largest Margin (Deputy Mayor):** Bob Spooner (2000) won by 3,833 votes over John Duda.
- **Smallest Margin (Councillor):** In 2018, Aaron Burchat (#4) defeated Adam Bureau (#5) by only 5 votes, though both were elected. In 2014, Forrest Rowden (#3) was only 19 votes ahead of Debra McCarthy (#4).
- **The 2022 "Cut-off":** Mark Mills finished in 6th place in 2022, missing a Council seat by only 170 votes behind Randy Barber.

Summary of Election Winners by Year

Year	Mayor	Deputy Mayor
2022	Lucas Cleveland	Nicole Beatty
2018	John Henderson (Accl.)	Suzanne Seguin
2014	Gil Brocanier	John Henderson
2010	Gil Brocanier	Stan Frost (Accl.)
2006	Peter Delanty	Gil Brocanier
2003	Peter Delanty (Accl.)	Bob Spooner
2000	Peter Delanty	Bob Spooner
1997	Joan Chalovich	Arnold McCurdy
1994	Joan Chalovich	A.D. McCurdy (Accl.)