

I am stepping down today as President, Spokesperson and Director of the Cobourg Taxpayers Association.

Helping to establish the CTA and watching it grow and develop over the past four years as an effective advocate for the citizens of Cobourg has been a milestone in my life.

My decision to leave has not been taken lightly and comes after months of introspection and thoughtful consideration. I have no doubt that the CTA will continue to be an effective and respected advocate for the citizens of Cobourg. As a citizen myself, I can't wait to see what the organisation does next!

I have been challenged, sometimes frustrated, but always exhilarated to work with the passionate, caring and accomplished men and women of the CTA - and the many others who have encouraged us and supported our initiatives over the years. Many of them have become my friends. I include our Town Councillors and Town staff. It was a delight and a privilege to be invited to attend candidates' election night parties in 2018 and is a testament to the enduring relationships the CTA has built and will undoubtedly continue to build in the community.

I have learned about the true power of a team from the constant support, respect and unfailing encouragement that I have been given. I have learned about the wisdom of the crowd as I have watched us devise better solutions together than I could ever have come up with alone. I am proud of what we have accomplished as a team.

Understandably, you will want to know why I am stepping down. It is hard to put into words. But quite simply, it is time for me to pass the baton to others who share my passion for municipal advocacy while I re-focus on my core strengths. They include: building relationships and connections, asking questions that challenge the status quo, nurturing hope, and encouraging people to think outside the box while rising to the occasion. I want to look towards bright lights while keeping back-to-basics firmly in focus.

I want you to know that I remain committed to helping my community thrive. This was, and will remain, the catalyst for my continuing involvement in municipal politics.

Like you, I want to leave this world a better place than when I found it. It really is that simple. Thanks for everything.

Lydia Smith