

September 15, 2015

Cobourg, ON –

### **New Taxpayers' Watchdog Sets Up In Cobourg** *Will Shine a Light on Local Government Accountability*

Cobourg's first-ever taxpayer organization was unveiled at a news conference held this morning.

"The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit corporation that will advocate for the municipal taxpayer," said spokesperson Lydia Smith.

The CTA's primary goal is to focus on waste, said Smith, "because we believe that cutting waste could translate into cuts to our taxes."

"We also want to see a municipal council and town staff who are far more responsive to the common needs of their citizens and businesses."

The CTA's mission is to watch, gather, analyze and report information to the general public and make recommendations to town council and staff.

It will uncover and report weaknesses in municipal administration that costs everyone money.

The CTA, according to Smith, also intends to investigate and expose situations that appear to be conflicts of interest or that show favoritism towards special interest groups.

"There is a need for a culture of accountability that will seek to eliminate waste and bring down property tax levels that act as barriers to economic growth and an inviting business climate."

Smith noted that a CTA Advisory Committee has concerns and questions about issues that affect Cobourg taxpayers.

Two examples she cited are increased municipal staffing levels and salaries and the secrecy involving the finances at Town of Cobourg Holdings, Inc. or Holdco, which is 99.9% owned by the Town and therefore its citizens.

The CTA welcomes citizen involvement in eliminating municipal government waste and improving efficiency. Our website is [www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca](http://www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca)

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