

**May 29, 2017**  
**Cobourg, ON –**

**Council and Staff Need to “Get Back to Basics”  
Venture 13 Business Incubator Should Be Received for Information Purposes Only**

Cobourg Council needs to get back to basics and should not take further action on the Venture 13 – Business Incubator project at this time says the Cobourg Taxpayers Association.

CTA President Lydia Smith told Council in an email today that although some projects with the Town are handled well (police, fire, town roads, grass cutting, and other similar projects), the CTA has no confidence with respect to many of the others.

“Town staff do not appear to have a strong foundation in getting things done effectively. There seems to be a lack of systems, checks and balances, as well as accountability. Let’s get our house in order before building yet another addition”, said Smith.

She listed a number of examples where Council and staff need to get back to basics.

- Councillors are still not using financials as a tool to identify whether budget items are on track
- The CCC is currently operating at an annual loss of more than \$1.2 Million.
- Marina operations and the Victoria Park Campground have not been optimized.
- Council’s video recording launch date was missed.
- The Town’s website is still not fully functional and easy to use.
- The HMCSS Goose Bay was not able to come into the harbour last year.
- The CTA’s lack of confidence in the Waterfront review process was conveyed to Councillor Darling a couple of weeks ago.
- Council does not appear to have the pulse of the general public and instead moves ahead with ill-advised ideas not supported by the community, such as the proposed Marina expansion, the Park Theatre purchase, and the illegal waiver of Development charges for a private sector medical arts clinic.

“Let’s improve the effectiveness of current staff and systems before initiating additional projects”.

-30-

**For more information, please contact**  
Lydia Smith at 289.252.0891