



## **It's been a busy few months for the CTA**

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association has worked on several issues since the beginning of 2016 including:

- Skateboarders deserve immediate action on the Skateboard Park closure.
- 75 upset taxpayers protest Cobourg tax increase of 2.7%
- The CTA sent an email to the Mayor asking him to answer two questions about the proposed hiring of a 'Manufacturing Attraction Specialist' and
- What is happening to Council's promise of recording all Council and COW meetings for the public to see and hear? We are still waiting for a response from Council.

The big question we are asking now is how to replace Councillor Theresa Rickerby who has recently resigned from Council. [Read the Northumberland News article about Theresa's resignation here](#)



CTA members and supporters are working with a group of local youth to keep this skateboard park open until a new proposed park is scheduled to be built in 2018.

## **Skateboarders Deserve Immediate Action on Park Closure**

*Cobourg's youth should not bear consequences of poor maintenance*

Cobourg's youth should not have to go without a skateboard park because of poor planning and maintenance by town staff says the Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA).

"Our youth deserve better than to be permanently locked out of their current skateboard park and told to wait years for a new one to be built", said CTA President Lydia Smith.

Smith said that skateboarding is one of our youth's favorite enjoyments and to close the park days after passing a bylaw prohibiting skateboarding on Town streets is insensitive to their needs.

According to one skateboarder interviewed by a CTA supporter, "The ramps have been this way for at least 5 years. Why have they become 'unsafe' all of a sudden?"

[To read the entire article please click here](#)

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## Capacity Crowd Fills Council Chamber

A capacity crowd of upset taxpayers packed the Council chambers to watch as the 2016 tax budget was passed with virtually no changes since the March 31, 2016 budget meeting. Prior to the meeting, 75 people protested the tax increase outside of Victoria Hall. It was a noisy but peaceful rally that showed people are upset about these tax increases and they wanted to let the Mayor and Councillors know it.

[To read the entire article and see more photos please click here](#)

The CTA prepared a comprehensive budget submission in less than a week.

[The email to Council with the questions can be found here:](#)

Many of these questions were asked during the budget meeting.



Supporters of the Cobourg Taxpayers Association held a rally outside of Cobourg Town Hall prior to the final vote on the 2016 budget.



## **How should Council fill the vacant Councillor seat after Theresa Rickerby's resignation?**

Cobourg Council should vote to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Councillor Theresa Rickerby says the Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA).

Under the Municipal Act, there are two choices for filling her vacancy.

Either Council can appoint a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed or a by-election can be held.

In an email sent to Council today, the CTA calls on Cobourg Town Council to hold a by-election rather than appoint a replacement.

"The CTA believes that in the interest of transparency and democracy, voters and not Council should decide on Theresa Rickerby's replacement as Councillor", said spokesperson Paul Pagnuelo.

Pagnuelo said that while the CTA acknowledges appointing a replacement would be cheaper, the community's voice must take precedence.

The CTA polled their supporters on the issue and 93% of respondents were in favour of a by-election, said Pagnuelo.

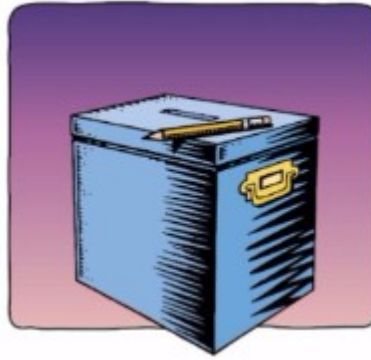
"Based on the 2014 election, the cost works out to \$3.48 per eligible voter, less than the price of a Big Mac".

The issue, the CTA believes, is one of legitimacy. With more than two thirds of this Council's term still remaining, it is fitting that voters make the decision on who should represent them.

"It should not be left to a backroom selection process where the appointed person would be indebted to a few individuals", said Pagnuelo.

The City of Toronto has called a by-election to fill Rob Ford's vacancy and Cobourg should be no different.

You can read the letter that was sent to Council [here](#).



## Results of the CTA by-election poll

93% in favour of a by-election with 45% of CTA supporters voting



## Does Cobourg need to hire a "Manufacturing Attraction Specialist"?

**May 2, 2016 UPDATE: Response from the Mayor:**

"I have asked the CAO to put a hold on hiring such an individual as a different approach looks promising." Entire Mayor's Email response can be found [here](#).

**April 12, 2016 UPDATE: Follow up questions sent to the Mayor can be found [here](#).**

**March 27, 2016 UPDATE: The Mayor's detailed response can be found [here](#).**

For the full text of the Email sent to the Mayor on March 23, 2016 click [here](#).

We have sent an email to the Mayor asking him to answer two questions about the proposed hiring of a "Manufacturing Attraction Specialist".

1. We want to understand the rationale on how this hire fits into the Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan recently presented by Wendy Gibson at the March 14th Council of the Whole.
2. How will this position be measured for success on an ongoing basis? This job description is open ended and will require specific targets to understand its effectiveness. Best practices always advise that when creating a position there should be measurable targets to judge performance. Additionally, when implementing a new position, it is often desirable to make it a contract position to allow for more options down the road.

[Please link to the CTA website for the rest of this article.](#)



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