

CTA December 2017 Newsletter



A Message from the President

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and fall.

The CTA has been hard at work since our [Spring 2017 newsletter](#).

Here's a partial list of our activities:

- **All Candidates Meeting Scheduled – October 10, 2018
- **New Director Appointed
- **Successfully Lobbied to Rescind the \$25 Ombudsman Fee
- **Attended Northumberland County Budget Open House
- **Supported the Rise of Citizen Activism
- **Secured an Opinion Editorial Column
- **Waterfront User Needs Assessment
- Attended Downtown Coalition, Economic Development, Parks + Recreation Committee Meetings
- Met with the DBIA
- Met with Councillors from Cobourg, Port Hope and Brighton
- Question and Answer Period

More detail on the ** items starred can be found below or on our website.

<http://www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca/>

Happy Reading!

Warm Personal Regards

Lydia Smith

President, Cobourg Taxpayers Association

All Candidates Meeting – Oct 10, 2018, Best Western Plus Cobourg

Save the date. Details will follow.

We need volunteers to help with distribution of flyers and publicity to friends, neighbours and businesses around town. We could also use a volunteer coordinator for this project. If you can help in any way, please send us your contact information in an email to:

cta@cobourgtaxpayers.ca

**Donations: It will cost money to pay for the space and to advertise.
Please give as generously as you can. Thank you!**



New Director Appointed

We are pleased to announce that Ted Williams has been added to our Board of Directors. Ted has been a passionate, enthusiastic and hard-working supporter from the beginning. You can read more about Ted here:

[New Director Appointed - Ted Williams](#)

Successfully Lobbied to Rescind the \$25 Ombudsman Fee

Cobourg was the only town in Ontario that would charge its citizens to lodge a complaint – and that’s just wrong. So the CTA lobbied to change that. Thanks to our secretary, Dennis Nabieszko for being the champion for this cause. Read the full story here:

[Council agrees to rescind Ombudsman fee](#)

Attended Northumberland County Budget Open House

The Northumberland Taxpayers Coalition with representation from all Northumberland ratepayer groups met with Northumberland County officials to ask for more accountability and transparency with respect to the County budget. This summer, the County responded by organizing a Budget Open House for the public.

CAO, Jennifer Moore and Glenn Dees, Director of Finance/Treasurer provided an excellent presentation. Attendees were invited to visit another room where tables for each county department were manned by directors and their staff. Many questions were asked and answered.

I speak for all the ratepayer groups when I say that we believe ourselves to be in good hands at the county level. Each group comprising the Northumberland

Taxpayers Coalition feels they have an excellent relationship with the County where we are welcome – unlike our experience at the municipal level.

[Northumberland County Financial Framework Open House](#)

Supported the Rise of Citizen Activism

Since the spring, at least 3 citizen groups have gone before council to express their concerns about things going on in their neighbourhoods. Other groups have required assistance being heard as stakeholders in the Waterfront process. In some cases, the CTA lent experience and expertise while building community relationships and partnerships. More information can be found at:

[Citizens Can Make a Difference](#)

Secured an Opinion Editorial Column

Northumberland Today featured two monthly opinion editorials written by CTA directors. Kennedy Gordon, the Editor, had this to say, *“I’m receiving letters to the editor about your first column. That’s a rare thing at this paper, and something I’ve been trying to kick-start. You’re on to something. Thanks.”* One of the articles argued that Cobourg residents are not apathetic – just tired of beating their heads against the brick wall that is staff and council.

[Are Cobourg taxpayers really apathetic?](#)

[Where is the wisdom and democracy in Cobourg?](#)

Sadly, the paper has since closed. We are considering other communication initiatives.

Waterfront User Needs Assessment

The CTA was successful in having itself added as a stakeholder so that we could meet with the consultants. We have serious concerns about the process and have made these known to individual councillors. This is ongoing. If you love your waterfront, stay tuned and share this newsletter with like-minded friends and neighbours.

Read more about the [First Draft of the Waterfront Study meeting](#)



PLEASE DONATE TO THE CTA

The CTA is completely volunteer run with no paid staff, no funding from government or special interests. Donations will be used to pay for Freedom of Information requests, our website, and other expenses to help everyone enjoy our Feel Good Town with less government waste and lower taxes.

Cheques are also welcomed and can be sent to:

Cobourg Taxpayers Association

24 Pebble Beach Drive

Cobourg ON K9A 2C5



Contact us at : info@cobourgtaxpayers.ca



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