

Time to Forgive, Time to Heal

Dear friends and neighbours,

It has been well over 3 years since our community was divided by our Provincial Government's lack of leadership during the pandemic; I say that constructively and with humility as I would not have had the experience to have handled the situation any better. It was during the lock downs that the divisional fulcrum point was crossed by our community; at that point there were two councillors also supported by the office staff to keep the unvaccinated out of our Municipal buildings and three opposed. The majority of Council who were unvaccinated waved their rights to not be banned from Municipal Buildings and attended the Council meetings electronically. Just as a point of reference Hilton township did not ban the unvaccinated even though the majority of their Council were vaccinated.

This decision of Jocelyn back in 2021 came to haunt us during the election of 2022 where some of the prospective candidates used it as a talking point to score points with the electors. Even though that divisional point is now gone, we are seeing an endless cascade of concerns from the public that are dividing our community. These concerns are generally about issues that have been around for years. So, why now are they all important?

The damage done by our province's inexperience in pandemic type situations needed to be dealt with by the province when they lifted the lockdowns. However, nothing was done about it. So, we Jocelyn Council invited Dr. Steve to speak to our community and bring us back together. Although some of us came away with a better understanding and empathy for people who chose to be vaccinated or not to be vaccinated many on both sides viewed Dr Steve's address with skepticism and our divided community continued.

In recent weeks, I have been asked by some of you to do my best to dial down Jocelyn's presence in the public eye. So, I appeal to everyone, let's give it a break and move on; at least till the next election which judging by all the rhetoric on social media should be robust.

This is my belief:

Previous staff left because they disagreed with a couple of majority decisions of Council. Then two members of Council resigned to support staff and this was followed by the majority of their friends from various municipal committees to resign as well.

I would like to commend the fire department, the disk golf group, landfill and parks employees for your professionalism in remaining neutral and staying at your post. For those who left or felt pushed out, I extend my hand for peace. Please come back we were very productive working together these past twenty years and we can be again and I want to thank those that already have.

Reeve Henderson