

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gibsons Councillor Wayne Rowe Announces Candidacy for Mayor of Gibsons

Today at the Blackfish Pub, with the room full of supporters, Gibsons Councillor Wayne Rowe announced his candidacy for Mayor in November 19 Municipal Election.

Former Mayor Tucker Forsyth, introduced Councillor Rowe and spoke on behalf of the Gibsons Organization of Voters, recently formed to encourage participation in the municipal election, increase voter turnout and promote responsible leadership.

“We need consensus rather than conflict,” said Mr. Forsyth, “and we need a leader for Council, for Town staff and for Coast wide opportunities. Wayne Rowe is that person,” he said.

Councillor Rowe began by announcing that he is a candidate for Mayor.

“Issues ebb and flow,” said Rowe, “election campaigns are the time for voters to weigh the candidate’s personal qualities, abilities and integrity and decide how that candidate will bring his/her judgment to bear on various issues important to us all.”

He described the qualities he thinks are the most important.

- Truth – not only to be truthful but to make all information available
- Honesty – more than just the facts, honesty means not taking advantage of peoples’ trust
- Loyalty – to residents, the community, to staff by being supportive, to Council members by being consistent
- Integrity – having a strong moral compass, not be influenced by personal bias
- Decisiveness
- Strong work ethic

“I believe I bring these qualities to the office of Mayor,” Rowe said. “My approach is to formulate policy and to resolve issues by

- listening respectfully
- finding solutions rather than taking positions
- collaborating rather than confronting
- using reason rather than emotion
- deciding rather than deferring.”

“We should focus on core services, streamline our municipal process and make maximum use of our talented staff. We should build up our financial reserves through effective fiscal strategy.” Rowe added that Council often hears from the same groups that have a narrow focus, and that Council has to find a way to hear from the wider community.

Councillor Rowe reminded everyone that every vote makes a difference, and that we have a real choice in this election. He asked for the community’s support, and concluded by saying that candidates for Council will be coming forward in the days and weeks ahead who are worthy of support as well.

Councillor Rowe currently runs a law practice in Gibsons. His background includes service in the Canadian Army with the Royal 22e Regiment (The Van Doos) in Quebec and Germany. He earned his BA at Queens University and his law degree at UBC. In 1981 he moved to Gibsons with his wife Joann Pearson, who served as Principal of Gibsons Elementary School. Their three adult children live in Edmonton, Victoria and Gibsons. Councillor Rowe has served on the boards of the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, the St Mary’s Hospital Foundation and Sechelt Community Projects. He is completing his first term as a Councillor in Gibsons.