

# Sheldon Simpson admires traditional conservative values of the Ontario Party

By Mike Renzella  
The Haldimand Press

DUNNVILLE—Professional firefighter and Dunnville resident Sheldon Simpson is troubled by what he sees as divisive politics threatening many facets of our daily lives. He decided to take a stand, and his search for the right platform led him to the Ontario Party, and its leader, Derek Sloan.

"We felt drawn to the community here in Dunnville," said Simpson, who moved to town with his family a year and a half ago. "In very short order we found a community where we were and it just wasn't there."

Simpson, who has progressed to the rank of Active Captain and Command Officer at a Milton-based fire station, said he has a wide assortment of skills to assist in the role of MPP, including emergency management, damage control, and chain of command through his firefighting career and fiscal management experience gained from his years running a landscaping business and helping

his wife run her business as well.

"I also know what a 120-hour work week looks like," said Simpson. "I didn't come from a wealthy family. I came from a broken family, actually.... We struggled and fought our way through and found our way to get back up. That builds the kind of tenacity that certainly is applicable here."

Simpson said that he has noticed a number of lacking societal resources: "Being a professional firefighter I saw a lot of the deficiencies of the health care system."

On education, he added, "We didn't really like some of the stuff that was being done. As very engaged parents, we felt that a lot of our parental controls and protections were being infringed upon."

He said COVID shed a light on other concerning issues: "I found more and more I would ask a question and be told to shut up, or 'mind your business, do as your told'.... Friends, families, and coworkers were starting to be divided.... I thought something has to change."

Simpson said the current inflation and

affordable housing crisis have him seriously concerned for his children's future: "This isn't what we fought and died for, this isn't what Canada is supposed to be, and this isn't how we're supposed to be as a people."

He continued, "Right now we've got an almost regime-style government without a democracy, where one leader tells everyone what to say, what to read, and how to vote. Not necessarily the proportional representation of the constituency itself."

He said that the Ontario Party offers the more traditional conservative values he believes in: "They 100% respect everybody's rights to individuality or freedom.... We have to have the autonomy as an MPP to represent the voice of the constituency," said Simpson, noting the Ontario Party pledge to refrain from implementing a party whip system.

He is also a fan of the party's MPP recall legislation, which would "allow the constituency to hold the MPP accountable. If they're not doing their job, or fulfilling their promises, the constituency is able to do something



Sheldon Simpson

about that.... If we're going to start to build some of this erosion back, we have to have faith and belief in each other, and we have to find a way to sit and listen, even if we disagree. I think that's what the Ontario Party really represents."

Simpson summed up why people should consider supporting him, saying, "I bring a lot to the table as an MPP, not the least of all is the fact that I understand what a hard day's work looks like, and I can sympathize with a lot of the struggles that we're all facing today."

## HALDIMAND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

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HALDIMAND—The following items were discussed at Council in Committee on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Any decisions made then had to be ratified at Council on Monday, May 16. For the full reports, visit [haldimandcounty.ca](http://haldimandcounty.ca).

**Grandview Lodge annual report reviewed; resident family satisfaction up**  
Grandview Lodge presented its annual report to Council last week. The report included a look at how the facility ran in 2021, and an overview of their 2019-2022 strategic plan.

On the strategic plan, the report highlighted how the ongoing pandemic resulted in a "drastic shift" to create a primary focus on infection control.

The resident turnover rate at the home for 2021 was 29%, or 38 residents. The aver-

age length of stay for residents at the home is 4.2 years, and the average resident age is 82.5.

In terms of resident satisfaction, there were increased numbers across the board compared to 2020, with 98% of resident families saying they would recommend Grandview.

**County to provide an additional \$53,000 toward purchase of firetruck in Caledonia**

Council approved an additional budget of \$53,000 toward the purchase of a new fire pumper truck to be placed at Station 1 in Caledonia. The increase is due to increases in the price of the vehicle since the original quote was provided to Council in 2021. A County report lists material supply issues, overseas parts availability, and other economic factors as causes.

The 2022 budget already had \$750,000 allotted toward the purchase, which the County opted in on in a bid to provide local

firefighters with updated technology, such as an onboard generator and a 'clean cab', a relatively new option that will assist firefighters in decreasing their exposure to carcinogenic gases and materials.

**County reveals first quarter insurance activity for 2022**

County staff released a report detailing the insurance claims made against the County from January 1 to March 31, 2022. Haldimand had claims filed against them in three categories, with one claim related to Environmental Operations, six related to Roads Operations, and four in the category 'Not County Jurisdiction/Other', which means the claims were made in error.

Typically, claims reported in the first quarter represent 21.6% of the yearly total. With an average annual of 74 claims against the County over the past three years, the data indicates a slight downward trend in claims received.

**Staff recommend against new bylaw**

Following a public request in February for the County to investigate implementing regulations for the operation of security cameras and surveillance equipment, County staff have advised against the creation of a bylaw at this time.

While the Municipal Act of 2006 does include provisions allowing for regulation of excessive fortification or surveillance activities, the regulations are more geared toward gangs and not intended for individual security cameras or 'minor' private property issues.

Hamilton has had a bylaw in effect since 2010, which restricts the placement of video surveillance equipment so that it may only monitor the homeowner's land and not beyond.

Staff cited the difficulty in enforcing such a bylaw, along with other means available to combat the issue, including Provincial privacy legislation and civil means, as the main reasons to not create a new bylaw.



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