

## **Messages from Mayoralty Candidates Posted October 15, 2018**

We're contacting the candidates for Mayor in West Nipissing and asking if they have any messages for our members. The following was received from incumbent Mayor Joanne Savage.

*Yes – we have experienced ups and downs throughout the years and I can't deny that there's been several challenges. Challenges that were frustrating, complicated and painful. As an individual who cares for people, and who has passion for the vitality of our communities, I found it hard to understand, as you did, the reason for some of these challenges. I share your frustrations and agony.*

*As difficult as it is to accept conflict, it is unavoidable. It's impossible for us all to think and feel the same way about sensitive matters. What's important to me is how one deals with conflict, maintains respect, with grace, with a cool head and the desire to continue working in the best interest of the people one represents.*

*Throughout the ups and downs we must remain STRONG and united to move forward. West Nipissing can do better and YES – TOGETHER we WILL do BETTER.*

*Throughout all of the above-the past-the present and the future-my priority remained the same and will continue to remain the same.*

*Fostering opportunities to enhance the economy and social well-being of our municipality and our residents. West Nipissing needs people who love our communities and care for people. As Mayor I will lead the path to team work and implement new ways for your involvement.*

*We have had many successes and I am proud of them. We have had a few "blip" and we've learned from them. We have a common goal and a common passion – We love our communities and care for each other.*

*I am the person who will continue to evolve our common goals and passions into ACTION. Above all, I am a PEOPLE PERSON who cares for you, your needs, your well-being and that of our communities.*

*I am devoted, committed, professional, respectful, loyal, present and active, experienced and knowledgeable. I have the time, the energy,*

*the drive, the enthusiasm and the positive outlook that it takes to be a fair, effective and efficient Mayor. I am a firm believer that as Mayor one needs to connect with people and to be ready to invest countless hours – over and above all scheduled meetings.*

*I've stayed true to this commitment and will continue to do so while making sure your hard earn dollars are spent effectively and efficiently on what matters to you.*

*In September 2019, West Nipissing will host the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Verner. Over the course of five days, this event will attract up to 80,000 people, the largest outdoor agricultural and rural exhibition of its kind in North America. The benefits of hosting this event will not only impact our economy, but all of Northern Ontario, and will ensure that West Nipissing is on the map.*

*I am proud to have pursued this opportunity and I'm looking forward to pursuing many more.*

*My commitment is to realize your VISION of a Safe, Friendly, Prosperous municipality.*

*A municipality that cares about PEOPLE, our differences and our Progress.*

*A municipality that we can proudly call "WEST NIPISSING".*

### **From Our Ward 8 Municipal Candidates Posted October 9, 2018**

With the municipal election approaching, UFRCA asked the Ward 8 (which includes the Upper French River) candidates if they had any information or message they would like posted on the UFRCA website. We heard back from two candidates as follows:

#### ***From Denis Senecal***

*My name is Denis Senecal and I am a candidate for Ward 8 in the upcoming municipal elections. I was fortunate to visit some of you during my boat tour of cottages, but for those I missed you can view my Bio on my Facebook page "denis senecal candidate". Rest assured if elected I will represent you to the best of my ability at the council table.*

*Through my conversations with some of you, I heard you loud and clear on the issues that concern you most such as garbage issues, policing and tax dollars.*

*If elected I will be accessible to all constituents of Ward 8 and your voice will be heard at the council table.*

*Thank You in advance*

### ***From Guy Fortier (incumbent)***

*Guy Fortier is a year-round resident in Ward 8, operating a small business in the Village of Lavigne, since 2007. Prior to that he worked in the automotive industry in the Kingston, Ontario area.*

*Proud of his French-Canadian roots, Guy Fortier is a staunch supporter of the bilingual nature of West Nipissing, and works with Ward 8 constituents in either official language.*

*With change in the air, Guy Fortier believes that it is important to have experience and continuity on Municipal Council, and feels that the expertise he has accumulated over his past two terms with a wide variety of Municipal boards and committees allows for him to represent Ward 8 with a balanced and effective voice.*

*Guy's current municipal positions include: Environmental Services of West Nipissing; North Bay, Parry Sound & District Health Unit Board; Planning Board Committee of Adjustment; Chair of General Government; and West Nipissing Power Generation. Past duties have included: Police Services Board and Agricultural Committee.*

*Guy has been a strong advocate of the following Ward 8 initiatives at the Municipal Council table: new roof for Monetteville Community Centre & Fire Hall; new rink building project in Lavigne; new waterfront park in Lavigne; development of Highway 64 Cycling Route; Community Safety Zone designation for Hwy. #64 through Lavigne; West Nipissing Food Bank (including annual Christmas Carolling in Lavigne); replacement of municipal dock and repair of boat launch in Lavigne; and re-gravelling of Hillman, Rainville, Poirier and Michel roads.*

*Guy Fortier is also a strong supporter of Ward 8's volunteer fire departments (Stations 7 & Station 8) whether through contributions to fund-raising, or bringing forward issues of concern to council and administrative staff at the Municipality.*

*Guy Fortier is on record as fighting to maintain reasonable tax rates, and strongly supporting regional economic development initiatives such as the 2019 International Plowing Match. He maintains an open-door policy for constituents, and facilitates quick responses to issues regarding road quality and snow clearing. He also has a strong positive working relationship with municipal staff at City Hall, ensuring good communication regarding issues effecting Ward 8.*

*"I see Ward 8 changing, as new young families move in, professionals who grew up here return to the community, and businesses continue to grow and succeed. Ward 8 provides a safe place for families, and a rich cultural community to grow within. I am able and willing to stand up at council and make tough decisions for the benefit of Ward 8, and for the Municipality as a whole. Over the next four years, I would like to see more family-oriented development in Lavigne, and secure policing for the Municipality. Ward 8 is a great place to live; I want to continue to work to make it better."*