

# ***ISSUES***

## ***First Nation Land Claim of Sauble Beach***

The first nation case is very weak. Our case is very strong. I am the one that first put the brakes on the land claim of our beach. We should ***not*** throw in the towel. My full report is at: <http://Craig's land claim report>

## ***Economic development***

The current council's approach to economic development is to tax money away from residents and donate it to commercial enterprises, in cash or in kind. This does not work. Council's approach actually slows economic development because it takes so much money away from residents, leaving residents with less to spend and invest, making the economy not better, but worse.

It is also grossly unfair to take money from those who earned it and who have a right to invest it or spend it, and to then donate that money to those who did not earn it and have no right to spend or invest it.

I feel that the best way to get the local economy moving is 1) get taxes under control and, 2) harness the skills and energy of the residents, (rather than by confiscating their scarce tax dollars). I feel the best way to do this is to set up an economic development committee independent of the local government, so that we can have a growing healthy economy without the unfair burden on taxpayers. I am offering to get such a committee going.

## ***Bringing taxes under control***

In 2010 we were promised a 15 per cent reduction in taxes, and were delivered a 20% increase. That's a 35 point difference between promise and delivery. I believe we can reduce taxes in 2015 and then hold yearly increases to the rate of inflation.

## ***Growth***

Some claim that growth reduces property taxes by broadening the tax base. It's not quite that simple. Sure with new construction you get a bigger tax base, but you also have to provide more services. If the extra taxes from growth are about the same as the cost of the new services, then there is no tax benefit to existing property owners.

Still, growth is a worthwhile goal in some areas, if we can get growth without hurting the taxpayers. There are many things that the town can do to support growth. But I cannot

support just taking money from the taxpayers and giving it to or for the benefit of developers. Services for new development must be funded by the developers, not the current residents.

### ***By-law enforcement***

We have some good by-laws. But enforcement is almost non-existent. That needs to change. I will change it so that by-law enforcement is separated from other staff and from council. The by-laws themselves, and not staff or council, should determine how by-laws are enforced.

### ***Infrastructure***

Many roads, and the Wiarton sewage system, and some water systems are in disrepair. We need to stop wasting money on things like the airport and private legal fees and use the money to fix our roads instead.

### ***Sauble Sewers***

Over and over Sauble sewers have been shown to be unnecessary, extremely costly, and unwarranted. Yet some candidates, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary, keep insisting that septic systems are contaminating drinking water and the lake where we swim, and even the sand at the beaches. Then they are using that false information to try to justify a communal sewage system at Sauble. The only difference is that now they want all residents to pay, not just Sauble residents. If the cost was put on just the Sauble residences that used the system, the capital cost would be \$40,000 to \$50,000 per residence.

But by spreading the cost to all residences in TSBP the cost would be \$10,000 per residence. That's a big break for Sauble residences but an unfair burden on the rest of the community.

The Sauble sewers issue needs to be put to rest, once and for all.

### ***The Real Story About Craig's Legal Adventures***

Allegation's have been made that I sued the town and that I cost the taxpayers a lot of money. These allegations are false.

Council sued me, not the other way around. And council and council alone is responsible for the crazy legal costs. More in my report [Town Bullies](#) .

### ***The Airport***

The airport needs at least \$100,000 of taxpayer subsidies every year, and provides little or no municipal service. This is neither sustainable nor acceptable. Something must change. If the airport cannot be operated at a real benefit to the taxpayers, then we need to get out of the airport business.

### ***Pay Parking For Tourists At Sauble***

The late 2012 decision to have free parking for tourists at Sauble is costing all residents in the Town \$250,000 in extra taxes. That's a 3 per cent addition to your tax bills. The decision needs to be reconsidered. We need to issue one free parking pass for every taxpaying residence but charge tourists 10 to 15 dollars per day.

### ***Transparency/ closed meetings***

In 2010 the Ontario Ombudsman investigated the last TSBP council TSBP and found many contraventions regarding open meeting laws.

In 2012 the Ontario Ombudsman investigated the current TSBP council and found six violations of the Municipal act regarding closed meetings. But the Ombudsman cannot do anything about it. The ombudsman can only recommend that they stop doing it. So not surprising council just kept on breaking the law. More and more improper closed meetings. That has to change too. I will have few if any closed meetings.

And they are voting in closed session all the time too. So that residents don't find out just how poorly they are being represented. I will put an end to voting in closed session.

### ***Indemnification bylaw***

The indemnification bylaw allows council members to violate the conflict of interest act. By paying their legal fees if they are caught. Best lawyers. No charge. And because they have the best lawyers possible, no one will blow the whistle on them. So they can vote when they have a conflict with almost complete impunity. This encourages them to just keep doing it. Which just keeps costing the taxpayers more money. Jim Turner is a member of the Wiarton chamber of commerce. I believe that John Close is too. Every year they vote to give the chamber a huge grant. Who is going to call them on it while they are protected by the indemnification by-law? No one. So the taxpayers just keep on losing.

### ***Transparency/ unnecessary closed meetings***

In 2010 the Ontario Ombudsman investigated the last TSBP council and found many contraventions regarding open meeting laws.

In 2012 the Ontario Ombudsman investigated TSBP council and found six violations of the Municipal act regarding closed meetings. His was the second highest in the province, just behind Meaford with seven violations. But the ombudsman cannot do anything about it. The ombudsman can only recommend that they stop doing it. So not surprisingly council just kept on breaking the law, having more and more improper closed meetings. That has to change too. I will have few if any closed meetings.

And they are voting in closed session all the time too. So that residents don't find out just how poorly they are being represented. Voting in closed must stop.