

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

Ward 10 All-Candidates Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Location: Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
Library 275 Loach's Road, Sudbury

Questions Presented to Candidates

Question 1: Residential Traffic Safety

Traffic safety is a major concern for residents in the South End CAN area, particularly around our schools and on residential streets.

Issues raised by residents include speeding, traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times, missing sidewalks, and the design of pedestrian crossovers.

In your view, which of the City's current traffic safety measures are working? What do you see as the most important changes needed to improve traffic safety in our residential neighbourhoods and school zones, and what specific steps would you take as a councillor to make those changes happen?

MY RESPONSE

Thank you for the question. I believe strongly that it is the role of a city councillor to be a champion for community, someone who listens, who acts, who delivers and builds on the forward momentum our city is experiencing. That is why I made school zone safety a priority as part of my Protect Sudbury policies.

These are concerns from residents in the LoEllen Park neighborhood where we have larger schools like R.L. Beatie and LoEllen Park Secondary. It is a busy intersection at Regent Street and Algonquin Road and an accident waiting to happen. Residents in the Lockerby area as well as in the core where Alexander and Jean Sauve public schools are located shared these concerns. Many of these neighbourhoods are also populated with seniors and folks with mobility issues who navigate these same areas.

We need to start with the basics such as ensuring school zones are clearly identified by trimming overgrown brush, signage is visible and road markings are painted in a timely manner or at least prioritizes based on traffic counts. It is mid-October and the road markings at Regent and Algonquin are still faded. Also, we need to explore options to regulate the use of e-bikes, segways and e-scooters given they can travel at higher speeds and pose a risk to pedestrians. I had a close call with a young guy on an e-scooter by Cedar Point Plaza on Sunday who appeared out of nowhere as I was preparing to turn right.

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

My specific actions would be a review and update of the city's Transportation Study from December 2016 to ensure the data and recommendations are reflective of our population growth. I would advocate improvements to be made to the service road along 2200 Regent to have raised sidewalks and curb extensions, new pavement, and designated pick-up zones that don't impede driveways. I would also advocate for targeted police enforcement blitzes, implement the city's speed watch program and explore gateway speed limits in high traffic school zones.

We also need to support the great work by residents such as Maria Bozzo, Tom Hewitt and others who were instrumental in the success of the winter sidewalk maintenance pilot program which ended in 2025. As the city transitions from an OADA advisory panel to a committee of council, this type of work will be even more important to ensure we have safer sidewalks, streets, bus stops, and bike lanes that create accessibility for all.

Question 2: Protecting Our Lakes, Stormwater Management and Funding

Greater Sudbury's lakes and waterways face growing pressures from urban runoff, road salt, phosphorus and extreme weather. At the same time, maintaining and upgrading the City's aging stormwater infrastructure requires significant investment.

Many Ontario municipalities have introduced a dedicated stormwater rate, where property owners pay based on factors related to the amount of stormwater runoff their property generates, rather than its assessed value.

Do you support continuing to fund stormwater management through property taxes, or would you favour introducing a dedicated stormwater rate in Greater Sudbury? What is your reasoning?

Note to candidates: Please refer to the attached document from the Nepahwin Lake Watershed Stewardship Group for additional background information related to this question.

MY RESPONSE

Thank you again for the question. We are fortunate to live in a city with 330 freshwater lakes which makes us premiere lifestyle destination. We are also fortunate to have some amazing volunteers who sit on our lake stewardship committees and to have dedicated environmentalist such as Dr. David Pearson, Dr. Peter Beckett, Charles Ramcharn, institutions like the Living with Lakes Centre, Science North, Laurentian University, ReThink Green, the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee and environmental activist like Cathy Orlando, Bill Crumplin, and Suzanne Seiling living in our community to learn from and hold us accountable.

As I have been door knocking, I have heard these concerns from residents in the

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

Nephawin neighborhood who are concerned about the lake quality and equally concerned about the creeks and flooding that happens from beaver dams in their backyards. In addition, I am also concerned about emergency preparedness given dangerous goods travel by rail everyday along Ramsey Lake and through our Downtown.

It is important that we study the best practices of Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, and Mississauga who are implementing a dedicated stormwater rate. This is something I can support as it is a more equitable model. I also pledged yes to protect residents, homes, infrastructure, nature, and the municipal budget from extreme weather and climate change in the Coalition for Livable Sudbury survey and last week signed a pledge to keep water and wastewater public.

Question 3: Recreation, Leisure and Healthy Living

Homelessness is a growing concern in Greater Sudbury, including Ward 10. Residents have raised questions about encampments, the safety and well-being of people experiencing homelessness, and the impact on surrounding neighbourhoods. They've also asked about solutions such as supportive housing and tiny-home communities.

If elected, what would be your top two priorities for addressing homelessness in Greater Sudbury, and what specific steps would you take as a City councillor to put them into action?

MY RESPONSE

I would first address the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030 and identify gaps that can better connect the organizations and the work they're doing. There are many silos within the Homelessness Network, and it's important that they all work together to coordinate their efforts better. I think we could explore more options for realistic long-term affordable housing alongside short-term options like old schools, tiny homes or pods. This would be important during the winter as well, since warming shelters are just a temporary Band-Aid.

I would like to see a dedicated public works crew for downtown Sudbury. Streets covered in used needles and overflowing garbage bins isn't productive for community safety, and puts the homeless at health risk as well. Following this, a public washroom is crucial downtown. Using the bathroom is a human need, and having facilities in Energy Court or at Memorial Park keeps the streets clean without forcing the homeless to search for the nearest shelter.

Our system is at capacity, and the city can't help more people until more rehab centers and shelters are built for the homeless in Sudbury. Council can create the infrastructure to convert unused spaces for people seeking help, along with an adjustment in the Mental Health Act to be more realistic around the 72 hours hold and systems in place.

Finally, I would like to propose a "Changing Hearts Program", that can provide day programs and employment opportunities for the homeless. With daily activities and income-earning tasks, we can

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

reduce the panhandling and loitering that happens around the city. These could include cooking classes, art programs and more from organizations that normally don't deal with the homeless, but have activities/workshops already in place.

Question 4: Recreation, Leisure and Healthy Living

Community events, recreational activities and public gathering spaces help create connected, caring neighbourhoods and contribute to residents' health and well-being. These include parks, trails, community centres, sports and recreational facilities, and other public gathering places.

As a councillor, what specific actions would you take to increase recreational facilities, expand community events and strengthen community connections in the Algonquin and Lo-Ellen Park neighbourhoods?

MY RESPONSE

I appreciate the question given that events and community is something that is very near and dear to me as an entertainment promoter and arts advocate. I agree with Cora that Laurentian's pool is a community asset and that we should explore opportunities for the Leisure services department to work with Laurentian University, like how we have already agreements in place for the track and sports fields with our various school boards.

We are very fortunate in our ward to have assets like the James Gerome SportsPlex, Laurentian Conservation Area, Roxbrough Greenbelt, Deadman's Canyon, Bell Park and Science North that are shared with rest of Greater Sudbury and its visitors.

One thing we need to do to strengthen events, is to reinstate the Civic Arts and Culture Fund and make the changes necessary to increase funding, include professional development opportunities for non-profit organizations and explore options to streamline the application process and allow for multi-year funding so institutions like Northern Lights Festival Boreal do not find themselves in dire straights due to the city eliminating the fund from the tax levy.

We also need to better support our community volunteers who dedicate their time to community gardens, flooding the local outdoor rink, planning the winter carnivals, organizing the historical walking tours, etc because sometimes I feel that we as a city are too focused on why we can't versus how we can which leads to volunteer burnout.

It was so great Saturday afternoon seeing residents enjoying the beautiful fall weather decorating their lawns for Halloween, raking the leaves and enjoying old fashioned quality family time. You people really do put the Unity in Community.

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

Additional Questions:

Are you in favour of vaccinations? **YES**

i.e. are you vaccinated? **YES**

- ☒ **I live in Ward 10. In my neighbourhood, over the past few winters, several neighbours have had garages collapse from rain on top of heavy snow, and one had a structural failure of their home for the same reason. Flooded basements with big rainfalls and rain on ice has also been a big disruption. What steps will you take to protect residents from the more extreme weather we are experiencing with climate change?**

I pledged yes the Coalition for Livable Sudbury survey to protect residents from extreme weather and climate change. It is important to understand that mayor and council cannot control the weather man and did not make it snow, however, as we experienced this winter with snowman mania, we need to do better. A report came to council at their June meeting where there was extensive community consultation. We also have zoning by-laws and building by-laws and building code requirements that are designed to prevent buildings from collapsing as well as flood mitigation efforts in play from Conservation Sudbury.

- ☒ **How will you support community initiatives and projects in the Ward? Which Ward 10 community groups have you already connected to during your campaign?**

I will support community initiative and projects in the ward by being present in the community, attending live events, and doing the hard work necessary at the committee level to support these initiatives. I have connected with a number of ward 10 groups such as the Kingsmount Bell Park CAN, participated in three historical walking tours led by Paul Haynes, attend numerous events and festivals in downtown and Bell Park, and participated in important causes such as NLFB Town Hall, WSIB Town Hall, Overdose Awareness Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, strengthened relationships with SKE, Go-Give, GSPS, and attended other ward debates 9, 11, and 12.

- ☒ **Will you commit to responding promptly to your constituents and community groups, and meeting with them to about their ideas and concerns if you are elected councillor?**

Absolutely! It is of the utmost importance to be present in the community, engage with community groups, have an open door for residents and to be champion for community. Our incumbent councillor did his best with the tools he had in his municipal toolbox, however, near the end, depending who you speak to, I feel he checked out. Living in the ward allows me to be present year-round to see and experience the issues firsthand and to bring your concerns forward effectively.

- ☒ **What will you do to make walking, biking and bussing safe and**

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

convenient transportation options in Ward 10?

We need to be aware of the things like sustainable transportation and urban mobility reports and use the tools we have such as committee reports, community delegations etc. to make walking biking, and bussing safer. We also need to view public transit as a valuable service that connects communities and how it relates to zoning and planning of our communities. Transit also needs to be more convenient to encourage ridership. Moving from an OADA advisory panel to a committee of council will also address many of the safety issues. Because when we have accessibility for all, we can have prosperity for all.

- ☒ **I am glad that the amphitheatre is being utilized and for a variety of different events. However several events - at my residence in the St. Joseph's neighborhood - had unacceptable decibel levels. One peaked at 94 dB in my front yard, so cannot imagine what the level was at the amphitheatre itself. Hearing loss begins at 90 dB. When I enquired of the city, the Recreation Coordinator responded justifying the existing policy and its enforcement, while acknowledging that the existing policy had No decibel thresholds, or monitoring of such by city staff, leaving it to performers to use their own judgement. Will you advocate for a review of the existing noise by-law and its enforcement, with particular reference to events held at the Bell Park amphitheatre?**

YES I will advocate for a review of the existing noise by-laws and enforcement. Other cities like Toronto do measure decibel levels from events in Rogers Stadium and I am aware that the technical director of the amphitheatre also measures the decibel levels. There is also a misconception that the city has a noise by-law, however, anytime their unusual noise at anytime of the day, residents within the immediate area are required to inform residents in writing wither it be a Bell Park event or an event in mall parking.

Events like NLFB and other cultural festivals happening in Bell Park are in general compliance, however, I know the recent EDM festival in the park was loud and caused concern. In the design of these venues, sound will travel. I even heard clearly the FrenchFest in Memorial Park while out in the Wembley neighbourhood.

- ☒ **What is the status of the current Panoramic development at the end of Boland Avenue? Also, what is your stance on further development in the Bell Park area or preserving it for future generations?**

The old hospital site is currently going through the site application status, and once that's completed they can apply for building permits. The land is purchased and there isn't a guaranteed timeline with a project budget of at least \$200 million and 530 residential units.

My stance is that Bell Park is a crown jewel in Sudbury. It was gifted under a covenant signed by William Bell and should be respected. Any future developments

DEREK YOUNG ANSWERS FOR WARD 10 CANDIDATES MEETING

should confirm to the existing zoning by-law

- ☑ **The homelessness question. While it is incorrect generally to equate homeless individuals with being dangerous, there has been an uptick in thefts in the St. Joseph's neighborhood and Boland Avenue over the past year, some incidents being caught on home surveillance cameras. Also, people often camp out in the Dead Man's canyon area and in the wooded areas across Paris St. from Bell Park.**

What are you suggesting as a Ward 10 candidate to assist with the management of homelessness, and by extension the safety of others and their properties in Ward 10?

Public safety is paramount for residents. We need to address social disorder by having things such as day-programs for the homeless to have a place to go and to develop life skills and employment training opportunities through my Changing Hearts Program. We also need to reassess the Roadmap to End Homelessness to identify gaps in services, ensure a deep core housing study so we have the right housing supply and have a coordinated approach with all agencies, police, first responders, HSN, the BIA and others dealing with the homeless crisis in our Downtown to help achieve net-zero by 2030. Also, more frequent targeted police patrols and the return of security patrols to Bell Park. Our approach to homelessness must be dignified, respectable and meet people where they are at, while balancing the concerns and residents and local businesses affected by homelessness.

- ☑ **I would love to know what the prospective councillors will do with regard to the new Satan's Choice Clubhouse that just opened where Cosmic Dave's (old Boomer's restaurant) near the pedestrian bridge.**

The Satan's Choice is on the radar of the Greater Sudbury Police Service and the OPP, along with numerous laws and systems in place to deal with Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. It's understandable that people are concerned, but the police are constantly watching and it's an issue that only they can deal with when problems arise.

- ☑ **I would also like to know where the candidates stand on the rat problem?**

I attended the public meeting on the Minnow Lake Rat infestation. I support the recommendations to help residents deal with property standards such as cutting long grass, keeping wood piles off the ground to reducing breeding areas and removing food and water sources. I also agree with encouraging more green box usage to reduce food waste and exploring opportunities such as waiving tipping fees for residents bringing rats to the dump. I look forward to working with my colleagues on council and city staff to prepare a rat mitigation program that will be coming to council early in the new year.