Glenn Deeth Closing Remarks

Port Hope Municipal Election Ward 2 Business Q&A

Wed Oct 7, 2026

Closing Remarks:

Tonight's discussion has focused on business and how Council can support existing businesses and promote economic growth in Port Hope. To do that well, we need sound policies that create opportunity while protecting both our built and natural heritage. Growth matters—but it must be smart, clear, and responsible. We don't want a system that simply says "yes, build it." More homes, more industry, and faster approvals may sound appealing, but without proper rules, they lead to long term problems. Rules exist for a reason—you can't speed just because you want to get somewhere faster, the results could be devastating.

Port Hope needs growth in the right places: commercial and industrial development along transportation corridors, where municipal services exist or are possible and impacts on residential areas are low. Higher density housing belongs in the urban core, not in rural hamlets. We must invest in short and long term planning strategies that consider servicing needs and overall community benefit. Hydrology studies should come before development applications, not after. We have the tools—let's use them to build a stronger Port Hope.

A key tool is an Engineering Standards & Criteria Manual. This document is essential for moving capital projects and development forward efficiently. Our Planning and Building documents must be clear and concise, and staff should be informative, not directive. Think of a big box store: when you finally find someone for help, being told "it's in aisle 31 or 32" isn't helpful. Good service means walking with the customer, showing the options, explaining costs, and helping them make an informed decision. That's the level of customer service we should expect from our municipality.

In 2026, people expect quick, easy access to information. That's why I believe Port Hope should centralize customer service. A "Service Port Hope" centre could handle all incoming calls, front desk inquiries, and emails—providing consistent, accountable, and informed frontline service.