



Application Summary for Collingwood Town Council Vacancy

Name: Stuart Lessels

Age: 55

Family: Single Father with two teenage children (one just graduated going to Carlton on a scholarship, one attending Our Lady of the Bay)

Status: Recently separated

Profession: Mortgage Broker, VP Ontario Operations

Location: Collingwood, Ontario

Specialty: Helping people, as a ski patroller in medical emergencies, and assisting with challenging mortgage financing

Goal: To be the best representative of the needs of the people of Collingwood as possible

Professional Experience:

- **35 years as a ski patroller:** Stuart has dedicated over three decades to ensuring the safety and well-being of skiers at Blue Mountain, Craigleith, and Lake Louise. Stuart has received multiple awards, from life-saving awards to public relations awards, and many others. Stuart also provided medical services to venues such as Special Olympics baseball tournaments, and running the medical team for the Calgary Marathon.
- **Over a decade as a Mortgage Broker:** With extensive experience in the mortgage industry, Stuart excels in finding the right mortgage solutions for even the most challenging financing residential and commercial situations. Stuart works from home as a Mortgage Broker and VP Ontario Operations with Enrich Mortgage Group, Mortgage Alliance, the #1 Franchise in Canada.
- **A lifetime in the Real Estate Industry:** Following in the footsteps of his father, a Real Estate Broker, appraiser, and land developer for over 55 years.
- **Many years of Management experience:** Stuart has managed emergency roadside service call centers, corporate sales, and customer service for major organizations like Canadian Tire Auto Club, STARS Air Ambulance, and TELUS Mobility. He has managed the Emergency Roadside Service Call Centre for Canadian Tire Auto Club and 43 Auto Clubs in Canada, the US, and Puerto Rico, which is ISO 9000 certified. Stuart also managed the Emergency Link Centre for STARS Air Ambulance, dealing with provincial labour laws for communications staff, physicians, nurses, and paramedics, as well as federal regulations for pilots. Additionally, he managed Corporate Sales and Customer Service for Western Canada at TELUS Mobility, handling union agreements and labour laws in both provinces.
- **Educational Background:** Stuart holds a BA from McMaster University.

Community Involvement:

- **Raised in Collingwood:** Stuart has a vested interest in Collingwood, having grown up here since 1971. He moved back to the community to support his parents as their health declined and is thrilled to be raising his children here.
- **Family Legacy:** Stuart's family has a long history of involvement in Collingwood. His mother was a Trustee and Vice Chair of the Grey County Board of Education and a Councillor for Collingwood Township Council. His father was a Real Estate Broker and Certified Land Developer who developed many projects in the area, including the Lockhart Subdivision.
- **Founding Member:** Stuart's father was a founding member of the Collingwood Yacht Club and Craighleith Ski Club.
- **Past President:** Stuart's father served as the Past President of the Collingwood Real Estate Board and the Canadian Real Estate Association.
- **Local Involvement:** Stuart himself has been actively involved in the community as a ski patroller, past president of the local riding association, and director of the Collingwood Chamber of Commerce.
- **Volunteer Work:** Stuart has a deep connection to Collingwood, having watched the Town of Collingwood Police Officer direct traffic at the intersection near KFC, answered many calls for the Collingwood Police Department, and shopped at local stores like Woolco. His children attend school at Our Lady of the Bay, and he has been involved in coaching their sports teams. Stuart is also familiar with Roberts Rules of Order. 😊

Council Needs and Stuart's Fit:

- **Flexibility in hours:** Stuart works from home and has the flexibility to accommodate council needs.
- **Financial knowledge:** Stuart works with many challenging financing requirements, on residential and commercial projects, giving him an in-depth knowledge of balance sheets, income, expenses, and financing.
- **Upcoming decisions:** Stuart is dedicated to helping the community navigate upcoming big decisions such as land development, affordable housing, and others.
- **Commitment:** Stuart is committed to attending council meetings every Monday, including in-camera sessions and committee meetings.
- **Accountability:** As a licensed professional, Stuart is dedicated to thorough preparation and adherence to established rules and regulations, with the ingenuity and creativity to suggest changes where needed.
- **Passion for Collingwood:** Stuart is so grateful to be home, and raising his children here too! From jumping off the pier in the summer, riding the trails, even past the Georgian Trail plaque with his Mother's name on it, coaching his kids sports teams, to skiing in the winter, to a lifetime of answering calls intended for the Collingwood Police, yes still!, to watching the Town of Collingwood Police officer under the spotlight at KFC directing traffic at 5pm after grocery shopping at Loblaws, as the Shipyards got off shift, Collingwood is home, and am amazing community!

Conclusion: Stuart Lessels is a seasoned Mortgage Broker with deep roots in Collingwood and a rich family history in the Community and the Real Estate industry. His extensive professional experience, community involvement, and dedication to helping people make him the ideal candidate for the vacant seat on Collingwood Town Council. Stuart's approachable and slightly cheeky tone ensures that he is remembered as the friendly "Go To" expert, ready to bring valuable knowledge and a smile to the faces of his fellow councillors, staff and all community members.