

Hello Kevin,

I left you a voice message last evening and it would really be great to connect either by phone or in person to discuss this topic.

I will provide you with a written response to your questions in case we can not connect prior to election day.

A) Some quick research on the benefits of trees and how they effect our lives and the environment around us gave me some interesting facts. My first comment is I shudder every time I lose a tree on my property. Having a home built in the early 50's most of the trees on our property have been here for a long time. We do our best to keep them healthy and as with everything over time they will die or fall. I have let forestation happen naturally on the property and actually have had new trees begin growing naturally on their own where the previous tree had been.

Trees provide a better over all health, create feelings of relaxation and well being. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. The information I have seen indicates that in 1 day, 1 acre of trees produce enough oxygen for 18 people.

They prevent soil erosion, provide shade, reduce wind speed, reduce noise pollution, attract business & tourist and can add up to 15% to a property's value.

B) I believe in a balanced approach when it comes to finding means to ensure longevity for our community. One of my thoughts is to ensure all sectors are part of moving our town forward. Tourism, environment, general business, residence all benefit from trees.

What I would think would be appropriate is for the community, calling upon sectors, to become the catalyst to coming up with a plan on improving our urban forest. Look into what other communities are doing and finding means to financially support efforts with the town helping when called upon.

C) We all have a role to play in funding this, municipal, provincial, federal, community. What a "advisory committee on urban forests" could do is pull together a plan, break it down into maintaining the health of trees, replacing trees and ensuring that urban forestation is part of planning development.

Thanks again for the question and I hope to be able to connect with you soon to discuss further.

All the best  
Shawn