

Excerpts from a recent candid interview with Steve Ott published in the Gatineau River News online edition (www.GatineauRiverNews.ca).

On Bike Trails:

“I believe that the community needs more bike trails and fully support the proposed route along Highway 105. Currently there are no connecting trails for our children to take to visit each other in the North/South direction, especially in Ward 4.”

On his opponents in ward 4:

“I hope they know the current hot issues in Chelsea as I have not seen them at many of the council meetings I have regularly attended in the last 5-6 years.”

On Chelsea:

“Best community in the world to live in and I want to maintain the good parts and improve the weaker parts.”

On his experience:

“I’m already a proven leader. As the elected president of the Ottawa Carleton Ultimate Association (www.ocua.ca) I have the experience required for the ward and more. OCUA has over 5,000 members and close to a ¾ million dollar annual budget. I don’t know many others with that kind of experience to represent the people in Larrimac/Burnett. And we’re not talking a local softball league here, OCUA is a large not for profit organization. Also as a small business owner, I know what it takes to organize and run something and keep the budget on track!”

On the riverfront:

“Our family has had riverfront property for over 70 years (since just after it was flooded!), so riverfront issues are also high on my list as they should be for any waterfront owner. There are many issues to be concerned about as a waterfront owner such as speed, noise, pollution, construction, jet skis, traffic, and there’s a lot of ward 4 families that live on the river.”

On his support:

“On my application form to run for council I had the mayor and half of the current councillors sign my sheet (even the retiring councillor for the ward), so I think that’s a good sign.”

On the environment:

“Chelsea has a great environmental track record and I would like to continue and expand in that area.”

On rivers and waterways:

“We need to be very careful with protecting our water assets. The watershed committee is a great start and we also need to work on protecting the many lakes and rivers in Chelsea. The H20 program is also another great project which I support.”

On Council:

“I can’t wait to sit on council and work for the people of Chelsea to improve our great community. I would also like to see more transparency and have the meetings more open to the public.”

On his timing:

“Contrary to a recent local article, I was the first to register to run in ward 4 on July 16th according to Paul St. Louis who is the returning Officer for Chelsea. So don’t believe everything you read!”

On his Chelsea ties:

“I’m a 3rd generation Chelsea resident. My grandfather first moved here in the mid 1930’s. I’ve been here all of my 40+ years. More than most people I know in Chelsea.”