Monty Clouthier:

2. Taxes are understandably a topic that residents feel strongly about. I recognize that tax increases during the last term were significant. However, following COVID-19, there was a considerable amount of deferred work that needed to be addressed.

We had to catch up on road improvements, update service programs, and expand staffing levels to meet growing operational requirements. We also inherited the Rivermill Park washroom project. Although this council did not initiate the project, we were responsible for completing it. I worked closely with staff and fellow councilors to reduce installation costs as much as possible.

Going forward, I believe we can maintain current service levels without substantial tax increases by ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. Reducing taxes often means reducing services, and I do not believe residents want to see important community programs or services cut.

3. As a resident of Brunel Ward, I understand and appreciate what makes our community unique. I am committed to preserving its rural character.

I support severances for single-family homes and duplexes where they are appropriate and fit within the surrounding area. In some cases, severances can also help residents with retirement planning and financial security.

During the last term, a proposed ten-lot subdivision came before council. We voted against it because we felt it was not appropriate for the area. Unfortunately, the developer appealed the decision and the province overturned council's ruling. I strongly opposed that outcome.

I remain firmly against developments that would significantly change the rural nature of Brunel Ward. There are other areas of the municipality where higher-density development is more suitable. Anyone who lives in Brunel Ward understands the value of its landscape, lifestyle, and close-knit community.

4. I was the councilor who championed the installation of the traffic-calming devices in Woodland Heights as a pilot project.

Initially, some residents opposed the initiative, and on one occasion the devices were even removed from the roadway and placed in a ditch. Nonetheless, they were reinstalled and have proven to be a highly effective and low-cost solution for reducing vehicle speeds and improving safety.

The feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive, and the success of the pilot project has led to broader implementation throughout the municipality. Staff now have the experience and procedures necessary to manage and expand the program where needed.

Improving road safety remains a priority, and I will continue supporting practical, cost-effective solutions that protect our residents and communities.