GREGORY PERI

Residents want tax dollars spent wisely, Peri notes





BY MARK PAVILONS

Ward 5 candidate Gregory Peri has found canvassing the community "incredibly grounding."

And he's discovered some common core truths.

He said most residents want to feel heard; to see their tax dollars spent wisely, and to know that the character of their neighbourhood isn't lost in the shuffle of growth.

"I've heard real concerns about traffic and road safety, especially around speed and heavy truck traffic," he says. "I've heard from older adults who want to stay in their homes and their community as they age, and from young families looking for more local programming. I've also heard from farming families who want to ensure their voice is part of the conversation as the Township moves forward."

As a father raising two daughters in King City, Peri notes a lot of that feedback lands close to home.

"What strikes me most is how much people want a councillor who listens, understands who to collaborate with, and knows how to get things moving forward. With over 20 years of municipal experience, I know how to turn that resident feedback into real results."

Peri says his main concerns track closely with what he's hearing at the doors – infrastructure keeping pace with growth is critical. Roads, water services, and community spaces need to be planned in step with new development, not playing catch up after the fact. Accessibility is another.

"Becoming a true Age Friendly Community means residents feel the difference in their daily lives, rather than seeing it as a line item in a plan. And I want to make sure the distinct communities that make up our Township, our residential neighbourhoods, our rural and agricultural areas, and our growing core, are all part of the same conversation, not treated as separate priorities."

Underneath all of it, he says, is a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Every idea brought to the table needs to hold up against a simple question: Is this a genuinely smart use of residents' money?

Peri brings more than 20 years of hands-on municipal government experience, which translates directly into the work of council.

"I understand how a strategic priority moves from an idea into a staff report, through budget cycles, and into something residents can actually see and use. Just as importantly, I understand the difference between where council can genuinely drive change and where council needs to trust staff and let good process play out. Effective councillors know they cannot, and should not, have their hands on every single decision. Knowing when to lead and when to step back is what actually gets things done, rather than creating gridlock.

"I know how to build consensus, manage budgets responsibly, and turn policy commitments into practical programs. In my career, I've spent years advocating for inclusive practices across an entire organization, which means I know how to bring people along on an idea, not just propose it. My time on King Township's Accessibility Advisory Committee has sharpened that further, giving me first-hand experience working from a resident's perspective alongside council and staff to advise and recommend real solutions."

"I'm not approaching this role as an outsider learning the system for the first time. I already know how local government works, and I want to use that experience to work for our community."

King City has become a real focal point for growth, and Peri sees that as both opportunity and responsibility. Development is inevitable, but the key is making sure we're ready for it when it arrives.

"That means tying infrastructure planning directly to growth approvals, ensuring roads, water services, and public spaces are built alongside new development, not years later. As we move through the Official Plan looking ahead to 2051, I will advocate for proactive planning so residents aren't left waiting for basic services."

On the commercial side, Peri sees King City's businesses as a real strength, but they need continued support to thrive alongside larger development. That means advocating for streamlined permitting processes, supporting local agriculture and agritourism, promoting community events that bring people together, and keeping our commercial core walkable and accessible as the area grows.

"Businesses do best when the community around them is thriving too, so I see infrastructure and business support as two sides of the same conversation."

Peri also notes that not every infrastructure decision sits with the Township. Some of the roads and projects residents raise are Regional or Provincial responsibility, not municipal.

"Part of being an effective councillor is knowing that distinction and advocating at the right table, whether that's Township council or pushing Regional and Provincial partners for action on the pieces they control."

Peri is excited about the opportunity to turn two decades of inside municipal experience into something residents can feel directly.

"I love the problem-solving side of this work, taking a resident's specific concern and working it through to a practical solution. I am also energized by the diversity of our Township, which spans rich agricultural land, established residential areas, and growing communities. Every part of this Township deserves a councillor who understands its specific character and genuinely engages with it."

"Representing Ward 5 is exciting because its unique mix reflects the Township as a whole. One of the challenges I look forward to taking on is being a clear, transparent voice on how and why decisions get made, so residents understand the reasoning behind them, not just the outcome. I understand that good governance means supporting every neighbourhood across the township. I want to build on the strong work council has already done, ask the difficult questions when they need asking, work closely alongside staff, and help make decisions that serve the whole Township. That's the kind of councillor I'm ready to be, and I'm genuinely looking forward to the work ahead."

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