

thescope's

2013 ST. JOHN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Art Puddister, At-large candidate

I am hardworking, honest and dedicated to doing the best job I can while on council. And I'll listen!

I am a businessman and I operate Puddister Shipping Ltd., a marine coastal transportation business.

We must concentrate on basic municipal services: clean water, snow clearing, garbage collection and upgrades to municipal infrastructure. Other issues such as tourism, parks and the arts are important but people expect and demand the provision of everyday basic services.

The top three priorities for the city should be:

1. Hold the line on taxes. Last year through re-assessments citizens received a 15% to 20% increase in their tax bills. Tax increases should be limited to cover the cost of inflation.

2. Conduct business in an open and transparent manner. As an example, last year the east end fire hall was sold without going to a public tender process.

3. Listen to citizens over and above bureaucrats. For example the on street parking ban during the winter month desperately needs to be modified. Also citizens should be allowed to park in front of their homes where there are bicycle lanes in off season periods and during the night.

Council's biggest blunder is to have accepted full responsibility for Team Gushue highway for snow clearing and maintenance without the direct participation of Mount Pearl. The City should have made its acceptance conditional - Mount

Pearl must pay its fair share, and the Province should use its power to force Mount Pearl to cost share the Highway. It is a regional road. There are a couple of achievements that come to mind and they are all linked to our environment:

• Harbour Cleanup

• Redevelopment of our landfill – especially for public access and use

• The recycling initiative

I can and will work with whomever the citizens of St. John's elect.

Heritage building regulations 10

City support of the Arts 10

Downtown parking 10

Public transit 10

Urban density 10

Full time council positions 0

Amalgamation 5

Height restrictions 10

Sidewalk snow clearing 10

Affordable housing 10