

Inaugural address by Mayor Ann MacDiarmid - Council 2018 -2022

December 3, 2018

Rosseau Memorial Hall

Good evening fellow residents, volunteers, staff, members of council and my incredible team. Welcome to the Inaugural meeting of the Seguin Township Council 2018 – 2022.

I am honoured and proud to stand before you today as your Mayor. I promise you that I will do everything in my power to fulfill the trust and responsibility you have placed in me.

I am looking forward to working with our new council that are here this evening. Returning councillors, Ted Collins and Rod Osborne will continue to make important contributions to the township. Newly elected, Daryle Moffat, Art Coles, Terry Fellner and Gail Finnson will be bringing new sets of skills and perspectives to council. Fresh ideas, open minds and enthusiasm that I hope will bring new energy to Council and the Township.

I want to thank our retiring Councillors – Susan Adams, Mario Buzsinski, Dale Graves and Jack Hepworth for all that they have given to Seguin over their terms on Council. Most importantly, retiring Mayor Bruce Gibbon deserves a round of applause for all that he has given over his 12 years on Council. All of you have made Seguin what it is today – the best Natural Place to live, work and holiday.

Your families and partners have also contributed so much to Seguin that they all deserve a special thank you and acknowledgement for their many hours of unpaid support and dedication to Seguin. Thank you for all that you have given.

Tonight is the beginning of a new era for all of us. We have an important responsibility to the citizens of Seguin to act with integrity, openness and to the very best of our ability to ensure that we protect the natural environment, keep taxes low and help our township grow strategically. We have made many promises to our ratepayers and it is incumbent upon all of council to build the infrastructure that is needed for this growth – that includes affordable high speed Internet, the extension of the natural gas pipeline and improvements in the availability of affordable housing and day care. I want to see us work hard with our neighbouring municipalities to get the pool – recreation

centre underway. It too is an important piece of infrastructure for our citizens.

Successful organizations are healthy organizations where respect for individuals and teams is the underlying principle of all that they do. I want to see Council lead by example by respecting the institution of Seguin; respecting all members of council and staff; and respecting all of the citizens and organizations with whom we do business. Counsel acts very publicly, collectively and with notice. Regardless of the divergence of views expressed at the Council table it is essential that Council speaks with one and only one voice.

Seguin is blessed with an outstanding professional staff that deserve our support day in and day out. The other day I understand that a tree fell on Sunny Shores Estates Road at 12:30 AM. One of our staff had it removed from the road by 2:30 AM. These are the things that bring service excellence and value to our township quite invisibly – often in pajamas as you and I sleep. I look forward to learning from all of staff and supporting them in everything they do to make Seguin the very best it can be.

Our success will depend on our attitudes. To see beyond the short term, beyond the urgent and to take every action with a view to lasting values. It is our responsibility as council to build a workplace where standards are high and fear is non-existent. Where all people feel comfortable speaking the truth to others.

As your Mayor, I will lead by example. Trust will be my bedrock and it will be my responsibility to ensure that trust grows between councillors, staff and citizens. I will never demand obedience – instead I hope to inspire a vision that will be shared by all. I will be preaching integrity to build trust and the respect.

In the coming months, this Council will lead the Township with a review of our strategic plan and a new Official Plan. We will endeavour to make Seguin a welcoming place for new business, new families and new employment. I love Seguin and cannot think of a higher honour and privilege than to be sitting here as your Mayor. Thank you for making this possible and for the enormous trust you have placed in me and my fellow councillors.