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Shoemaker nixes run for provincial seat

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star Wednesday, March 8, 2017 10:47:41 EST AM



Coun. Matthew Shoemaker will not be running for a provincial seat in the coming by election.

Matthew Shoemaker has decided that he will not hoist the Liberal banner in Sault Ste. Marie's provincial byelection.

Shoemaker, a first-term Ward 3 councillor, said he put a lot of thought into the decision and consulted with his family and friends.

"There is no one reason why I am not running, but a number of things," he explained.

Shoemaker has rolled up his sleeves and delved into his city council work, a job he says he doesn't take lightly.

With 67 motions penned throughout the first portion of his term, Shoemaker thinks he can best work for the city at the council table.

"This city is having some difficult times and I thought I could best put my energy into the efforts I'm pursuing at council right now," he said.

In addition, Shoemaker said he's also running a busy law practice.

"I considered where I could be the best effect for the community and at this point in time, I think that is at the (city) council table," he said.

Shoemaker said the decision was a tough one to make but he's glad he went through the process and feels honoured to having been aske to run for the empty city, vacated by David Orazietti at the end of 2016, after more than 13 years of serving office. He resigned in order to spend more time with his family.

He said recent poll results which suggest Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals have dropped dramatically in recent months, did not play a factor in his decision.

"Sault Ste. Marie has benefited greatly from having a seat when David was there," he said. "We have a new hospital, new schools, businesses have received NOHFC funding, the steel plant has receive modernization money and the list goes on," he said. "The Liberals have a good government record here and one we should be proud of and one David should be proud of."

But Shoemaker hasn't ruled out never running for higher office.

"We'll have to see about the timing of everything. Right now the timing is just not right," he said.

Meanwhile, NDP's candidate Joe Krmpotich and PC candidate Ross Romano have already started their campaigning with door knocking and stomping with provincial party leaders.

Wynne must call the byelection by June 30, a maximum of six months after Orazietti resigned.

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