



**20-50% OFF**

**We Believe In QUALITY, We Believe In CANADIAN MADE**

**EVERYTHING  
CANADIAN**

**JUNE 21  
TO JULY 8**

A chance to  
**WIN**  
\$250 GIFT CARD

## NEWS LOCAL

### Shoemaker hopes resolution offers alternatives

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star

Thursday, June 15, 2017 3:08:24 EDT PM



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

It was a bitter-sweet win for Matthew Shoemaker Monday night.

The Ward 3 councillor says he's trying to look outside the box and find ways the city can generate more revenue instead of getting down to the budget crunch time and looking for programs or services to cut.

Earlier this week his motion received a passing grade that will see city staff develop potential options on how and what municipal employee should pay for parking in municipal lots.

While Shoemaker was originally hoping his resolution would simply move to the development of a direct proposal that could be implemented by city council, he's pleased the first hurdle has been passed.

It was clear during the debate that some members of city council were not comfortable with the idea of charging employees to park at their place of employment, meaning he may have an upward battle once the final report comes back for deliberation by council.

But Shoemaker counters that the trend with both many provincial and federal government buildings is that employees are charged in order to recoup some of the costs associated with maintaining the parking lot.

In some cases, like Ontario Lottery and Gaming, employees are charged to park at the Foster Drive headquarters but visitors and guests are offered short-term free parking spots.

In other locations, like the federal service centre on Bay Street, both employees and visitors are charged to park in the lot.

"Municipal government is the only level of government that isn't trying to generate some revenue, or cost savings, in this manner," Shoemaker told The Sault Star. "I think we need to take a good hard look at this, and other ways to save money instead of looking at potential cuts."

City CAO Al Horsman said city staff from the community development and enterprise services will be charged with conducting the review and developing several options for council to consider.

Those options could range from costs that would see employees paying for the entire cost of maintaining the lots, to partial recoup of costs the existing status quo.

He doesn't expect the report to be completed until some time in the fall.

But before any options or recommendations can be made, staff will need to look at several issues involving labour relations like existing language in collective agreements and employee contracts.

"There's some work to be done to go through the collective agreements and the employment contracts and talk to the union agents," Horsman said.

Horsman said this isn't the first time the issue of employment parking has been considered.

But skeptics question why employees should pay for parking when it's already included in taxes, and they too are taxpayers.

Horsman said with some municipal buildings he sees difficulty monitoring who pays and who doesn't and how spots can be guaranteed for those who are paying for them.

"A report to council will give the backdrop of what the implications are and the options that can be considered if council wishes to proceed, he said. "It could very well be that administration costs could be too excessive" to make a system work.

Other organizations around town charge both employees and visitors to park, including Algoma University and the Sault Area Hospital.

Shoemaker said that all tools available to the municipality need to be considered to help reduce costs without cutting programs and services.

Ward 2 Coun. Sandra Hollingsworth said she sees a different trend developing – one that asks employees to seek out cost-saving measures and they would receive non-financial rewards for their efforts.

## This Week's Flyers

