

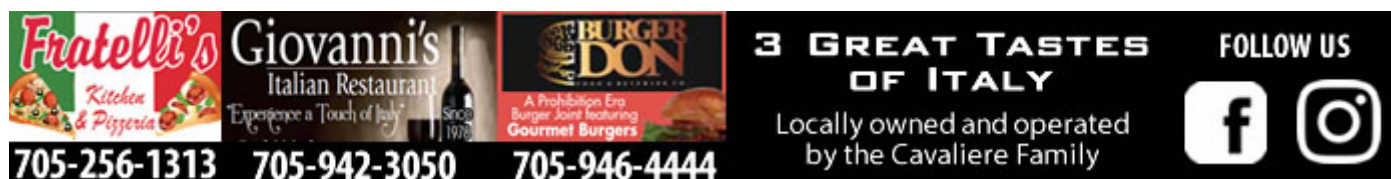
Matt is Throwing His Shoe Back In

By **Ernest Skinner** - May 27, 2018



If you are in Ward 3 you will be happy to know that the King of Resolutions will once again be running to represent you in this coming Octobers Municipal election. He won't be running for the position of Mayor at this time but he will once again seek to represent you as a City Councilor.

High on his platform(shoes), Matt will work to keep municipal and corporate taxes as low as possible, budget for much-needed road repair, and to continue to bring motions that will help the city prosper now and in the future.



Shoemaker gained national notoriety when he penned a motion for the city to bid for the Amazon site and its second home. Although falling short of the bid, it was noted by national media across the country for Sault Ste. Marie's brazen efforts to think outside the box. A Canadian business delegation that was in China even noted that the bid from Sault Ste Marie was heard. As Shoemaker says "nothing ventured, nothing gained".

Shoemaker thinks the city has not lived up to it's potential given its prime location and numerous natural amenities; a city that is always struggling when the steel markets are down. "there is probably some merit to the argument that there is a bit of a resistance to change locally; you've probably seen it in the term where something gets put up (motion) and it gets rejected without even being debated, and I think that's a failure of the council. You can't be unwilling to explore every angle because you don't' want to upset the applecart". Shoemaker said.

If re-elected he would like to focus on not only things that the Corporation can control such as how it's parks and open spaces are run, corporate affairs, waterfront development etc, but he goes further and would like council " to be nimble enough and be prepared to go for the outside opportunity when it presents itself" (Noront, Amazon)

In respect to the Downtown, Shoemaker believes that the street party venture being experimented with is a good idea. "At the same time, if we want a "patio culture" or some kind of culture to flourish, we (council) need to take into consideration the costs associated with fees, permits etc." Although he acknowledges that businesses, "need to pay their fair share, the corporation needs to take into account the effect of provincial fees and the increase recently in the minimum wage".

"For example, a suggestion (idea) could be to waive patio vendor fees for a set amount of time until the culture has flourished thus giving the vendor time to introduce it and not put an extra burden on them when they are starting the early process. He also says that the city has "recently updated the patio permitting process." Shoemaker said.

The Ward 3 councillor also believes it is worth looking into having an outside marketing agent run the cities main arena "if the numbers work." If the city can get a fixed amount of money each year and the vendor can produce more shows, conventions etc, it would only serve to benefit the city."

During this past year, Shoemakers is on record as voting to have the Norgoma removed.

"sometimes if something is not working, you have to let it go. The removal of the ship would lead to more transient water tourists with the four or five new slips it would open up and at the same time, a possible skating rink "such as the Rideau Canal" could be entertained in the winter months."

Shoemaker is looking forward to campaigning to not only represent his ward but the city of SSM as a whole. Although he is only 29 years old, he will have more on his plate this year as he is the proud father of a healthy baby boy named Hudson.

Ernest Skinner

Ernest Skinner was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Humber College after high school. He has a passion for other cultures and has traveled throughout Mexico and many South American countries.. He has written many articles over the years that deal with events happening here in Sault Ste. Marie. Reading about ancient civilizations, world politics, and mysteries of the unknown are also defining factors that are his general makeup. Outside of being serious, he has a bright sense of humor that was molded from shows like Seinfeld to The Simpsons.

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