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Municipal and School Board Election Biography

The Municipality is sharing the following biography exactly as submitted by each Candidate. We have not edited or revised grammar, spelling, punctuation, or verified any content.

Candidate Name: Rielly O'Shaughnessy

Office Seeking: Councillor

Ahoy!

I am Rielly O'Shaughnessy. I was born in North Shore New Brunswick and moved to Essex County when I was 1.

My elementary school years were spent at St. John De Brebeuf in Kingsville and I attended high school at Cardinal Carter in Leamington.

For the majority of my early 20's, I tried many different blue-collar jobs. The most notable being a heavy equipment operator in construction before finding my passion of commercial fishing. Little did I know that this passion would be short-lived.

In 2021 I was in a life-altering accident that changed the trajectory of my future forever.

Due to the nature of the injuries I sustained in my accident, my right leg had to be amputated above the knee to save my life. I also had to learn to navigate life with a traumatic brain injury. During my time at the hospital, doctors were astonished by my speedy recovery and spirit in the face of adversity.

After spending a year recovering and another year learning to walk again on a prosthetic, I attempted to return to blue-collar work with little success.

Instead of giving up, I started volunteering my time to various charitable organizations and different programs within Windsor-Essex. During this time, I was able to gain confidence through various sports in the region geared to those with disabilities. Through these opportunities, I understood that one person can make a positive impact simply by showing up.

Using the knowledge I gained from volunteering, I found myself on the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Leamington. My goal on this committee has been advocating for those facing barriers within our municipality/region.

Because of my efforts championing a barrier-free Leamington, I received the first Municipal Accessibility Award.

Pursuing a life of public service has given me a greater sense of purpose than I could have ever imagined. This passion for service I discovered is what inspired me to put my name in the municipal election for a councillor's seat. My goal moving forward is to show up for my community in an attempt to remove barriers, allowing everyone to live to their full potential. All walks of life should have representation within government.