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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: Paul Tiessen

Office Seeking: Deputy Mayor

I am a lifelong resident of Leamington and third-generation farmer. I attended Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology and then returned to the family farm, Tiessen Acres Ltd. where we grow corn, soybeans and wheat. We grew processing tomatoes for Heinz until their closure, and then continued supplying Highbury Canco until 2016, when we decided to exit the tomato industry.

Over the past 35 years, I have served on numerous boards and committees, including the Essex County Federation of Agriculture, Essex County Vegetable Growers Association and District One Vegetable Growers Association where I progressed from Director to Secretary/ Treasurer and then Chair. I was also appointed to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board for a term and have volunteered on church committees. I spent time on the executive of Leamington Area Drip Irrigation Inc. which was very interesting and challenging.

My municipal experience began on the Committee of Adjustment before becoming a Councillor for the municipality in 2018. I have now served two terms on Council. During my time as Councillor, I have served as Chair on the Appeals and the Property Standard Committees and I am currently the Chair for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. I also serve as an alternate member of Essex County Council. These experiences have allowed me to build relationships and gain leadership experience.

I am committed to listening to all perspectives, carefully considering the information presented and making thoughtful and informed decisions. I also recognize that circumstances can change. If new information comes forward or unintended consequences arise, I will not hesitate to revisit an issue and reassess my decision. I believe good leadership requires the ability to make decisions while also being willing to listen, learn and adapt.

As in the past, I will continue to focus on improving both urban and rural infrastructure. This includes bringing the Erie St. and Talbot St. streetscape projects and the Northeast trunk sewer project to completion. I will continue to address the ongoing needs in our rural areas paying particular attention to the condition of our roads and ditches. There is still work to be done to ensure our infrastructure continues to be safe and reliable thereby meeting the needs of our community. Community safety will also remain an important priority. I will lobby upper levels of government to bring forward funding and wrap around supports for the homeless. Continued dialogue with the OPP, Fire Services and the Municipal By-law department is necessary to support a safe community for all residents.

My eight years of experience serving on Council and sitting on and chairing various committees has provided me with the knowledge, leadership skills and understanding of municipal government that makes me a strong candidate for the position of Deputy Mayor. This experience has also taught me the importance of listening to different perspectives, working collaboratively and making informed decisions in the best

interests of our community. I would be honoured to be the next Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Leamington.