

ED CORRIGAN'S SPEECH TO BYRON WARD 7 MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2003

First I would like to thank the organizers and you the constituents for coming out tonight.

The best way to evaluate your candidates for Council is to check their voting record and past performance. One should also be very careful about false promises and unrealistic expectations. The past term was dominated by the changes in our City manager's position. A culture had developed where City staff were operating often without the knowledge or sanction of Council. I was one of four Councillors who voted against the 8 weeks vacation, and \$4,500 a month bonus for Jeff Malpass. I voted for the job review and against the exit package for Mr. Malpass. I voted consistently for the public release of information on all exit packages paid to staff.

At the beginning of my term I refused to accept that Council did not have the authority to get information on the "\$230,000 retirement package" for our Chief Engineer and I challenged that legal position. Ultimately my view was endorsed by our legal staff. I am proud of my efforts to ensure that minutes of senior management meetings are now recorded as Senior management quickly adopted the suggestion after I raised the concern. This is a standard practice and will help ensure accountability.

I supported banning the cosmetic use of pesticides, after our Medical Officer of Health said such use posed a health risk. I was pleased to present a letter to Council from Dr. David Suzuki supporting this position. I proposed two resolutions to improve air quality which were both adopted by City Council. I also strongly supported a By-law to restrict smoking in public places.

Free speech at Market Square was another issue I supported. I voted against the use of tax dollars for donations to political parties. I also worked for investigation and disclosure of the tendering process for the water contract. The review identified a number of problems which should not be repeated.

I also helped obtain an enhanced buffer for Warbler Woods. I supported preserving Reservoir Hill as open space. Unfortunately the City lost the appeal of the OMB decision. My proposal to ensure fairer access to tickets at the John Labatt Centre was unanimously supported by Council. I have strongly supported a quick resolution of the safety issues at the Col. Talbot/ 401 interchange where several tragedies occurred.

I also supported a fair and democratic procedure for the survey process for traffic calming measures in Westmount. I supported making a decision for a location of the new Westmount Library after 19 years on indecision.

I have supported the west-end expressway rather than the widening of north-south arterial roads in Ward 7. Protecting transportation corridors for the future needs is vital if we are to keep environmentally friendly options open like dedicated bus lanes.

I have made myself available in person, by phone and by e-mail to deal with the concerns of constituents. These contacts range from potholes to the budget. This work is largely invisible but it is essential that the residents of Ward 7 have access to someone to represent their interests.

Most issues have two sides and it is not always possible to please everybody. I do my best to workout compromises and support the best solution for Ward 7.

In Ward 7 we have been beneficiaries of much of the capital spending that the city has

recently undertaken; the Byron Fire Hall, Westmount Library, Oxford Street bridge, Springbank footbridge, Lambeth splash pad, a new roof on Lambeth Arena, Springbank Park and Storybook Gardens revitalization together represent millions of dollars of investment in Ward 7.

I am very proud of all these projects which I have supported and helped implement. I will continue my efforts to build a 2-pad arena and a community centre in south-west London. It is currently a priority project in the City's Recreation Master Plan. It was through the hard work of your councillors that this project is now priority one.

It is clear that property tax increases are a major concern for Ward 7. For next term I pledge to support the lowest tax increase possible without unacceptable reductions in service.

Moody's recently gave the City an AAA credit rating and the Canadian Tax Federation gave London top marks in terms of the low cost of our civic administration as compared to other municipalities. So there is a lot of good news for our City and Ward 7. I urge you to look the facts and the voting record before deciding whom to cast your vote for. I stand by my voting record and work record in responding to the constituents of Ward 7 and my efforts in communicating to you the voters to keep you informed of issues important to Ward 7. It would be an honour to continue to represent Ward 7 and I look forward to your questions. Thank you.

