

To Councillors, clerk and Mayor of the City of Guelph:

I first met Michelle last winter when we had both stopped on the side of a dark country road outside of Guelph to rescue an owl. We were both driving home from our jobs at the time. We had both noticed the owl in distress at the side of the road. Cars and transport trucks were tearing by incredibly fast as we made brief introductions, came up with a plan to rescue the owl and searched in our cars for gear to use. Armed with a blanket, I grabbed the owl and we gently placed the wrapped bird in the blanket and a cloth shopping bag. Michelle contacted the Humane Society and offered to drive the owl there and we exchanged contact info.

We stayed in touch after that, cheering for the owl to make it and waiting daily for some good news on the owl's fate in what had been a challenging week for both of us. That small act of stopping to help and make a difference and meeting a stranger willing to do the same encouraged me that there are people out there willing to work for positive and compassionate change. The owl later recovered and was released close to where we had found it.

I got to know Michelle over the coming months and remain impressed by her experience with leadership and volunteer service in politics over the past several years at the municipal, provincial and federal level. I learned that Michelle is a person of intellect, integrity and experience who has shared her time and expertise personally and professionally to building a more sustainable and just world.

Michelle has the wisdom and experience to examine pertinent issues holistically and achieve consensus with others while working for the common good from a non partisan perspective.

As a Guelph Resident for the past 35 years of Guelph Ward 3, I fully endorse Michelle in her candidacy as a councillor of Ward 6. I know that Michelle will work diligently and efficiently to represent the constituents of Ward 6 and continue to move Guelph in strategic direction while taking the needs of all constituents into account.

Sincerely,

Natalie Basaraba