

CANDIDATE	<i>What are the benefits of a post-secondary institution in your municipality?</i>	<i>What are the key challenges of being the host community of a post-secondary institution?</i>	<i>How do you plan to address these challenges?</i>
Gerretsen, Mark	Kingston is blessed to have three great post-secondary institutions: Queen's University, St. Lawrence College and RMC (Royal Military College). The residents from the City of Kingston benefit from the three institutions enormously. They support our local economy incalculably, they foster our ability to be on the cutting edge of innovation, and they bring about the employable skills demanded by the employment sectors of both today and tomorrow.	The key challenges are with respect to student behaviour problems which occur off-campus. It is, however, important to note that the vast majority of students do not engage in unacceptable behavior; rather, it is a small number of students that unfortunately create a bad reputation for the rest.	As I am currently a city councillor, I introduced a motion at our last council meeting to setup a permanent committee of council which recommends with respect to dealing with student behaviour problems. In order to ensure inclusion from all stakeholders, members of the committee will include: the police department, bylaw enforcement, college and university representatives, student association representatives, non-student community representatives and one member of city council. The motion was unanimously passed by council.
Last, John	Post-secondary institutions create an interesting opportunity to increase the influx of youth and new blood into the city, and raise the overall education level of the population. Some of Canada's most vibrant and innovative youth centres are based around post-secondary institutions, and they become hubs for cultural and intellectual diversity.	There are always challenges in concentrated youth neighbourhoods. Quality of housing is going to decline if there is a demand that surpasses a supply. IN addition, a concentrated youth population tends to alienate older generations, and create environments that can, at times, pose security risks. Queen's University, notorious for its Aberdeen Street Homecoming Party, is a perfect example of these challenges in action.	I plan to address these challenges with attitude readjustment. It's a chicken and egg issue... the city has a negative, adversarial attitude towards concentrated youth neighbourhoods, and youth, in turn, treat the city as a stopover, a place to trash and move on and forget. Both sides need to accomodate... the city needs to be more willing to accomodate some, if not all, of issues seen as stemming from youth communities - i.e., late parties, noise complaints, minor vandalism - and focus on tackling those serious offences in partnership with student organizations. They also must be willing to provide more opportunities for students and youth in the city, and create an attitude amongst city government, staff, and planning groups that enforces an idea of youth as a positive influence on the city. If this is accomplished, the end result will be Kingston becoming a more vibrant and enjoyable place for youth to congregate... youth will begin to take ownership of the city, and begin participating in its processes.

Matheson, Rob

<p>There are too many benefits too list in this short time. However they include economic benefits, employment and educational opportunities for the community. They also provide an incubator for new business ideas and growth.</p>	<p>Some of the challenges include being able to provide adequate quality housing in dispersed and integrated locations throughout the community. There are also some issues related to a minority of students behavior in regards to partying, littering and disrespect of neighbors.</p>	<p>A Town Gown Relations Committee is in the process of being set up thanks to this current city Council that I will commit to attending and pursuing after the election. This committee will be made up of the various stakeholders and community partners to look at solutions to some of the root causes of this. Proper planning and support of applications looking at improving the quality of and dispersing quality housing around the city is essential. In addition improving our Public Transit service is key to allowing students to live a bit further away and promoting this integration and dispersion within our city. I also plan in conjunction with the Town Gown Committee, to assemble a Youth Roundtable on Sustainability to discuss the four pillars of sustainability and include our young people in providing input and recommendations on their needs within our community.</p>
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