

**CANDIDATE**

D'Intino, David

<b><i>What are the benefits of a post-secondary institution in your municipality?</i></b>	<b><i>What are the key challenges of being the host community of a post-secondary institution?</i></b>	<b><i>How do you plan to address these challenges?</i></b>
<p>St Catharines is very fortunate to have both a prestigious university and an esteemed college in our city. The students that are attracted to the city by these institutions provide numerous benefits including labour power, intellectual capital, and community service. Brock student have a distinguished reputation for serving the community, with recent studies indicating that 11,000 out of the current 17,000 have or plan to volunteer their time in community service during their tenure in the community. Given that St. Catharines has a high rate of unemployment and a rapidly aging population, attracting and retaining students is of vital importance. Without an immediate infusion of human capital into the local economy, the city will be unable to sustain itself long term and economic revitalization will be impossible. I have made the representation of students at City Hall a primary concern in this election, and I will do everything I can to ensure that our post-secondary students come to vote on October 25th.</p>	<p>There is a delicate balancing act to be observed. At times the lifestyles of younger and older populations may clash and it is of vital importance that the lines of communication remain open in the event of conflict. The current mayor has chosen to side with older residents while paying lip service to our post-secondary students. One member of council was foolish enough to blame our Brock students in media for a crime that they did not commit. This adversarial approach to community relations is completely unacceptable. Older and younger residents must learn to respect each other and co-exist. While seniors represent a large majority of the voting population, it is the younger generation of residents that will pay the taxes of tomorrow and staff the jobs of tomorrow and as Mayor, it is my job to balance those competing factors in a manner which emphasizes communication, mutual respect and inclusiveness.</p>	<p>The primary method I have employed thus far is an information-based approach. I have gone door-to-door in post-secondary neighbours and met with residents of all stripes. I have also publicized the negative treatment that many Brock students are receiving from City Hall and am doing my best to encourage different segments of the population to work together. I have met with landlords, city officials, seniors and student representatives to hear their concerns and tried to identify a nexus where their interests meet. I believe that through a combination of community-based mediation, open communication and strict by-law enforcement, the needs of all parties can be address while further developing the sense of community that St. Catharines is currently lacking.</p>
<p>St. Catharines is the home to Brock University as well as a large number of students who attend Niagara college. Not only is a University and College a major employer, but the students who attend these institutions contribute a great deal to our local economy. In addition, graduates represent a well educated workforce who will play a key role in building the future economy here in St. Catharines.</p>	<p>As I have stated there are many benefits. But the one challenge primarily has been with respect to student housing. Unfortunately a very small number of students have not integrated themselves into the community the way one would hope.</p>	<p>The city, along with Brock and Niagara College are working hard to institute a good neighbour policy which will help to assimilate students into existing established neighbourhoods. In addition, we participate heavily in orientation week to educate new students about their responsibilities. We also have seminars involving the Niagara Regional Police, Fire department and city bylaw officers.</p>

McMullan, Brian