

Barry Hicks opening statement, all-candidates forum, November 12.

Welcome and thank you all for coming out on this rainy Saturday evening. It's great to see such a good turnout and so many people showing so much interest in our new Town of Tantramar. I'm not big on public speaking so please bear with me.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Barry Hicks and I'm running for a seat in Ward 2. I am grassroots, homegrown, lifelong residence of Tantramar. I was born and raised in British Settlement, Westcock area of Ward 2 and have lived here all my 65 years. Ward 2 is my home. I have deep roots here as well as a genuine passion for not only protecting our heritage, but also helping to carve a sustainable future for this area.

In 2017, I retired from the Town of Sackville where I worked for 40-plus years in the public works department. I was a heavy-equipment operator for 20 years and then joined the management team as superintendent of public works for the remainder of my career.

During my 20-plus years in management, I'm sure that I have met and spoken with many of you on various occasions. I also had the opportunity to work with a number of mayors and councillors and feel that I have a good understanding of how council works. I have a great deal of experience in municipal government especially in the infrastructure and operations sector. I am very eager to lend my extensive experience to not only the constituents of Ward 2, but also the Town of Tantramar.

After having the opportunity to talk with some of the residents of Ward 2, I notice several common issues emerging. The concern for the future of Sackville Memorial Hospital, the summer and winter maintenance of our roads, ditches and aboiteaux, timely access to emergency services --- fire, ambulance, RCMP --- increased taxes with no increase in services, having a strong voice to represent Ward 2.

I don't have answers to all the questions at this time, but if I'm elected as councillor of Ward 2, I will be a strong voice and I will work hard to help find solutions and answers for not only Ward 2, but all of Tantramar.