

Natalie Donaher's opening statement at all-candidates forum on Nov. 12th.

I will spend just a short brief time telling you a little bit about my background and some experiences I've had recently that might show you that I've had a lot of experience with advocacy and organization, two skills I think are very important for the Ward 2 council seat.

I came to Sackville from the neighboring community of Moncton, both sets of grandparents small business owners there. I've got a mechanic garage on one side of the family and landscaping, nursery business on the other. Also fully bilingual.

I got a scholarship to Mount Allison University, married my high school sweetheart at The Chapel moved away for a few years and then came back to settle in the Wood Point area where we took possession of the beautiful, historic building in the Barnes family.

So, I have been spending my adult life building things in Sackville, both physical structures at that beautiful farmstead, as well as connections between the community members, the workplace teammates, the non-profit organization volunteers that I work with, as well as part of the local service district's advisory council that I was part of for a short period of time.

I don't think it'll be easy to grow a new town of Tantramar, but I do hard things all the time. Unfortunately, 11 months ago, the barn burned down in the historic property. Thank you so much to the fire department to help us through that traumatic end time and it has been 11 months of advocacy and communication with the insurance company so that we could get our policy entitlements.

Additionally, during that time, my husband had a circular saw accident and we had to navigate the chaotic health care system here, which required so much advocacy and communication as well.

And so, I believe these two skills I've practised a lot and think I could bring [them] to this exciting time as a candidate forward too.