



Dear South Bruce residents:

Having grown up on dairy farm on the Teeswater River, farming and country living are an important part of who I am. In South Bruce, where agriculture makes up the greatest number of businesses in the municipality, it's a part of our collective identity.

One of the recent presentations to the South Bruce Community Liaison Committee meetings was about the economic opportunities from the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) project for South Bruce and the possible impacts/benefits for agricultural businesses. Of course it's important that our vibrant agricultural sector continues to thrive, and it can – agriculture will always be celebrated and supported alongside new industries and developments in our region. It doesn't have to be one or the other. We only need to look to our neighbours in the Tiverton area to see prosperous farms of all types and sizes thriving in close proximity to the nuclear industry.

Farmers are resilient and adaptable. We have to be when we are at the mercy of weather and farm prices! These traits can serve us well as we consider whether we want to host a DGR in South Bruce. The project will not be without its challenges, but these challenges are not insurmountable.

We need strong municipal leaders to help us make these important decisions. Not only will they be leading our community through the DGR site selection process, but so many other areas that affect our day-to-day lives. I am pleased to see so many great people put their name forward for municipal council. The rest of us need to do our part to learn about the candidates, ask questions, and, most importantly, to cast our vote!

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the newsletter, and feel free to provide us feedback. We'd love to hear from you!

Tony Zettel, RR5 Mildmay



Key takeaways from Impact Studies

Numerous studies have been presented to the Community Liaison Committee this summer. While the studies were undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the proposed DGR, there is baseline data and insights collected by expert consultants that will be extremely valuable to community planning on many fronts. All aspects of life in South Bruce have been researched, analyzed and assessed, and provide municipal staff and council with a better awareness of community assets and interests. You can review all the studies on the South Bruce website and copies are available at the South Bruce office and local libraries.

Economic Development, Agriculture and Tourism

- The agricultural industry is integral to the local economy and is continually changing. The number of farms today in South Bruce is 361 compared to 416 in 2011. Beef farming has decreased by 36%, dairy is stable, and the number of oilseed and grain farms increased by 31%.
- A worldwide survey of storage facilities for used nuclear fuel discovered that most nations are siting their projects in agricultural regions and found no evidence of risks to agriculture yield, product safety, or commodity prices.
- A market threshold analysis identified the need for growth of several sectors over the next decade, such as real estate, physicians and other health practitioners, legal services, accounting and insurance, personal care services, and retail and grocery stores.
- **Opportunities stemming from the Project on the local economy include the potential for growth in local construction, equipment manufacturing, and maintenance businesses.**
- There is an opportunity to expand South Bruce tourism, including agri-tourism, culinary tourism, and outdoor amenities and event-based tourism. The Centre of Expertise could be leveraged to benefit residents and visitors.



South Bruce VOTES ✓

Municipal Election October 24, 2022

South Bruce municipal election

Municipalities have the power to direct the future of their communities and positively impact the lives of those who call it home. They provide services that are best managed under local control; from water and wastewater to fire services, garbage collection and recycling, as well as recreational programs, roads and community centres. Our municipal council also provides leadership for how our community will grow and develop.

Willing to Listen was formed because we believe in the future potential of South Bruce. **Our community is facing a decision that presents unprecedented opportunity for our children and grandchildren (and well beyond!), and such an opportunity is likely to only be available once in our lifetimes.** We want to support our municipal council and our community as we work through the DGR site selection process, and help ensure that we make an informed decision based on facts and

science, not on fear. However, there are many challenges and decisions facing our community whether or not we decide to host the DGR.

Willing to Listen would like to see the following from the candidates running for mayor and council in South Bruce:

- Demonstrate respect and integrity. The way you deal with others in your life outside the council chambers, whether at work, while volunteering or personally, is the most important indicator of whether you can and should be trusted to help lead South Bruce.
- Be positive. It's easy to be against everything, and harder to actually work together to make things happen. We need collaborators much more than we need more critics.
- Base decisions on verifiable facts rather than ideology, opinion or personal

impressions. Set aside preconceptions, trust experts and other credible sources, and be prepared to change your mind when you learn new information.

- Be a team player, and be willing to put the needs of the municipality as a whole ahead of individuals or special interest groups. Of course you should speak for residents in your ward, but focusing only on your backyard may mean you miss important opportunities for the future. Be a champion for a common vision – the good of everyone in a strong, vibrant, compassionate South Bruce.
- Be a good colleague. If you must criticize others, even your opponents, stick to their record and their platform and avoid personal attacks. In office, respect those you disagree with; you're all working in your own way for the public good.

Willing to Listen Event

A physician's perspective on Nuclear Waste

Join us for a discussion about the health impacts of nuclear power and nuclear waste.

When: Sept. 17, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Who: Dr. Chris Keefer, Dr. Douglas Boreham

Where: Teeswater Community Centre

With the issue of the proposed deep geologic repository front and centre in South Bruce, Dr. Keefer and Dr. Boreham will be holding a presentation and Q&A on the health impacts of nuclear power and nuclear waste. This is an opportunity to get a medical opinion on this important topic.

Dr. Chris Keefer is an emergency physician and educator and the president of Canadians for Nuclear Energy.

Dr. Douglas Boreham is the Division head of Medical Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

If you have any questions or comments for us at Willing to Listen, please reach out via the Facebook page or email willingtolistensouthbruce@gmail.com

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SOUTH BRUCE DGR



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