

# **LFP Editorial Board's Endorsements & Recommendations of the Langleys' Municipal Election Candidates**

## **– Backgrounder & Rationale**

The LFP editorial board that reviewed and discussed all the 2008 municipal candidates is comprised of several people who are very familiar with Langley Township, Langley City and the Langley School Board politics. As an example, yours truly, the **LFP Editor**, is a member of the editorial board as is **Susan Semonick**. No one person really had the significant say.

Needless to say, there were great discussions and even greater arguments and disagreements especially about school board trustees and about Langley Township council candidates. The Langley City endorsements were much easier and quicker. Most of us agreed that this was mostly due to a lack of any interfering power hungry slates backed by provincial political parties – at least so far!

We also were all very disappointed with the partisan political power-player antics in the slates. If you are a slate declare it, register it, but don't assume the voters are stupid and won't see through the deception. The most difficult discussions always surrounded our school board choices. But in the end the statement that we should always first make the "best picks for the kids" overruled in the toughest decisions.

### **3 Tier LFP Rating system**

First we all agreed that in fairness we should establish a 3 tier endorsement rating.

Those who we absolutely endorse and think that you should vote for are highlighted in green and have a green check mark beside their name.

Those who we absolutely **DO NOT ENDORSE** and think should not be voted into office have their names stroked through.

Those who for a variety of reasons fell in the middle have no highlighting, no check marks and no stroke through their names. If you really feel you should vote for more than we're suggesting, we think you should pick from these candidates.

### **Voting Strategically**

We all came to agreement that in order to realize meaningful and significant changes on the Township council and School board, it was important that we should vote a shorter list of candidates than the maximum allowed. So for school board in Township, we recommend that you vote only for 4 of the 5 that you could vote for, and for only one of the two in the City.

For City council, we recommend 4 of a possible 6. For Township council, we recommend 5 of a possible 8. This is called “**strategic voting**” and it will help get new people elected.

Because this is a “first-past-the-post” election, if you agree with our shorter list but add other names that you consider your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> priority, you may actually in effect cancel out your 1st tier choice of candidates.

### **Why Did We Chose our Endorsement List? – What were the arguments?**

We have a full list of justifications but we decided not to bore you with them the night before the election. For instance, **Diane Pona** was hotly discussed and as was **Stacey Cody**. But it was felt that it was important to make sure that the 5 we endorsed be elected and that they should live in the area they represent. **Hattie** was another very hot topic but it was felt that she be given provisional endorsement with an eye on a creative and a qualified cross section that was best for the kids.

On the City council, it was generally felt that some change was desirable and that **Rudy, Marika & especially Dave Hall** would provide excellent checks & balances and much needed new perspectives. We were without exception very impressed and appreciative of **Ron Abbgrall** stepping up to the plate so there would be no Mayor acclamation and we all encourage him to run for council next time.

In Langley Township, we all stroked out those who we felt were definitely on Mayor **Alberts’** silent and “**Good Ole boy’s Club**” slate. There was much argument about **Dan Sheel** and great support too, but it was clear that he was fishing in too many ponds. In doing so his motives were questionable. While it was also extensively argued that **Mel & Bob** demonstrated essentially time after time that they were on the **Alberts’** silent slate, it was felt that for this election they would be presented as nobody’s real choice and provisionally not stroked out (but feel free to do so!).

So there you have it – **LFP’s Editorial Board’s** picks for the municipal 2008 election.

Please vote tomorrow and please vote for new fresh faces and new ideas and new ways of conducting business!

Yours Truly

**LFP EDITOR**