

By the time you read this you may have seen some signs and received some campaign literature outlining some of my goals and vision for Belcarra. Unfortunately during the All Candidates' Meeting on January 7th the meeting was inadvertently not recorded so for those of you who were not part of the meeting I will repeat some of my thoughts.

I thought that it was important to say a few things about myself, so I did. I don't do that often and speaking about it at the meeting didn't come easily to me. By nature I am humble and appreciative of all that I have. I usually let others and my actions speak for me.

I felt that residents wanted to know where I am coming from, what is my background, and why I am a candidate for the position of mayor..

I have been invested in Belcarra since 1995 and always love to spend time here. It is a place of refuge and contemplation for me.

I was born in Dublin, across from Belcarra, our twin city in Ireland since 2007.

It is somewhat like Belcarra, but smaller, 228 people. It has a general store, two bars (of course), and a new sports hall beside the community centre. It has also won the Tidiest Town Award for the whole of County Mayo 14 times.

I imagine that it has a great community spirit. It could be an aspiration for ourselves, a village that we can be proud of.

I moved from Dublin to McBride BC, another small village.

McBride is like Belcarra, population of about 600, great community spirit.

"A Town On Track" is their motto.

Financially, they are unlike Belcara, In terms of the best financially managed municipalities in BC they are ranked 21 out of 152 municipalities in BC.

Belcarra is ranked 145/152; almost the worst ranked municipality in BC as of 2016. (CFIB BC Municipal Spending Watch 2006-2016).

I loved McBride; small, friendly, very close to nature. And I was there until Grade 9, Then moving to Kamloops for high school.

I went to UBC to play basketball, and then volleyball when I was not skilled enough for the Varsity team, and then discovered my love of hockey.

I only mention these because of the importance of team sports, where you all work together to achieve a common goal, inviting people who have something to contribute to join the team. Everyone has a role.

Years later I often find in Administration that the applicants who have played team sports at a serious level often turn out to be the most cooperative workers towards achieving goals for the team.

I went to UBC to play basketball, and took Sciences as I was not good in the arts, and fell in love with Zoology. Later I wanted to do graduate studies studying large mammals but unfortunately that career did not work out for me. I still have an immense love of animals and

wildlife but chose medicine as my second choice, mainly because I enjoy interacting with and helping people and working with like-minded individuals.

I finished my medical degree, did two more years of training in New Zealand and Australia.

I returned to UBC and after 5 more years of training became a Cardiac anesthesiologist involved in all aspects of patient care from heart transplantation, open-heart surgery, post-operative Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care, and also with acute pain and chronic pain interventional therapy. .

I have a curiosity and interest in people, activities, and education.

I am a graduate of the SFU Executive Business Management Program in the Faculty of Business with training in organizational behaviour, negotiations, and planning.

Belcarra has always been a quiet place for me, close to my roots as a lover of nature. It has all that McBride has to offer in terms of a small, friendly village, with the bonus of the nearby ocean. I enjoy people. I think that you would find me to be very approachable and friendly wherever you meet me.

St. Paul's has 1200 doctors and 5000 allied staff and I am sure that at least 50% of them know me or my dog. You could walk into the hospital and just ask, do you know Dr. Cole, the good looking doctor with his therapy dog and they would answer, "Oh, I don't know him, but I do I know a Dr. Cole with his good looking dog."

This is only the third job I have applied for (not counting the lemonade stand entrepreneur, grocery stocker, gas jockey, pulp mill worker, etc. as a student). The other jobs I was offered or encouraged to apply for based on my performance in the previous job.

Before I finished my 5 year anesthesia training I was offered a job as a staff anesthesiologist At Shaughnessy Hospital and subsequently was asked to head the department and then offered a transfer to St. Paul's where later I was asked to head that Dept. of Anesthesia. At the same time I helped organize to evaluate and improve the delivery of anesthesia care in Riverview Hospital, where I also worked for 17 years and enjoyed its patients and staff and the proximity to Belcarra. I was promoted to full professor at UBC as the youngest professor in anesthesia at the time.

I was a finalist twice in the Canadian Space Agency Astronaut Program Selection and subsequently was asked by the Canadian Space Agency to become their Director of Space Medicine, to look after the health of the astronauts and liaison with other countries in terms of the delivery of medical care on the International Space Station. I turned down that offer due to family concerns at the time and challenges in administration at Providence Health Care.

In assessing offers and proposals I never initially say "no" to any proposal until I have had a chance to gather information about the proposal upon which to base my decision. If I say "yes" I am All-In. I get involved and contribute to group activities. I love doing and supporting

research; based on facts and contributing to advancement with better therapeutic drugs, better uses of older medications and medical devices that are safer and enhance patient care. I have volunteered and undergone experiments as a subject myself in many different fashions, continual bedrest, electric shock, breathing low oxygen mixtures, having CO2 injected into my veins, etc.

In terms of change, it is sometimes thrust upon us, as you all see what Covid has done. But we also have an option to Influence positive change in a direction that we all want.. We don't necessarily need to embrace change but we should be open to consider it.

I was asked and volunteered to be part of the Indy Car Racing medical response team, as well as the Flying Doctor Service in Australia. I studied with the RAF in Farnborough England for a RAF Certificate in Aviation Medicine and at the U.S. Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island for training in high altitude decompression.. I have spent time at Johnson Space Center, primarily for zero gravity flights, Kennedy Space Center for Space Shuttle prep and launches , Marshall Space Flight Center for flight monitoring , and Edwards Air Force Base as a secondary site for Shuttle landings. Always working as part of a team to advance our objective.

I have enjoyed trying to develop my artistic side by taking courses in Standup Comedy, Improvisational Comedy, Digital Photography and participating in film production.

I approach life in a curious and serious manner but with a sense of humour.

I have a laugh every day.

So what does all this mean to Belcarra? I do believe that I am the best candidate for the job. I am very approachable and like to build a consensus. I enjoy talking to all people from all walks of life and understanding their perspective. Everyone has an interesting and compelling story. We all have so much to be thankful for, just to live in safety and security in a beautiful country. And this will be all of our experience no matter what the results of this election are.

I am very grateful for having an opportunity to change, to come to Canada with my family, Our family were quite poor and leaving Ireland was a necessity. But exhibiting Class, Compassion, and Caring is what it is all about. None of those things cost anything. I enjoy people, hearing their stories, and helping them achieve their goals.

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So let's share a vision of Belcarra that can be our vision, let's allow each of us to achieve our goals individually and collectively. Why should I have a dock and the person next to me not be allowed to have a dock? Let's have an open and communicative Village Hall.

Our property taxes bring in about \$732,000, just under the "General Government = Village Hall costs of the Village Hall, about \$889,000. Our current debt for the water system is about 2.5 million which with interest payments of \$129,000 annually (about \$500 per household) will result in a total payment of 3.6 million when it is paid off in 2037, or about \$14,000 per household. (Belcarra Financial Statements 2019).

Let's look for opportunities to Simplify, Streamline, and Save.

Let's fix the water system. It's basically the only service that we have. And what is its status?

Let's go over it again, see exactly what we need to improve it; what exactly is needed for appropriate fire protection and move together as a collective.

The village just seems to be so divisive now.

Of course, this is all based on working with the residents and council. They are the ones making the decisions. The process is important. Let's have an open, transparent, one for making decisions; update communications and encourage anyone interested to be involved in the particular decision. Do this quickly through Doodle Polls, email updates, etc.

Let's let Committees of interested volunteers do their work and then support their decisions.

No favouritism. I sometimes think that my best strength is that I have not been involved in Belcarra Politics previously.

I am unbiased and want all of us to work together.

My motivation for running is primarily because I enjoy a challenge and I have the time and effort to devote to it. I hope to have a chance to improve a divisive situation, and to learn about "how things work" in municipal issues and politics (my last and only elected office was that of a UBC Student Senator). And perhaps start Belcarra on a road to be even a better place to live than it is now.

So, get to know me a little. Call me or email me or Go to my web site and make a Zoom appointment. And let's show respect and thoughtfulness to other residents. See the world from their viewpoint. Talk to me directly, ask me questions, and then make your choice on January 23rd. My website is: www.coleformayor.ca, phone 604-937-1999.

Let's all start working together for a Belcarra that we can be proud of, unified, Compassionate, Caring, and one that shows Class.

Thank you..

Colm