



Jan Gillett

5. There are 5 women running for council with diverse backgrounds experience and education. How do you think the election of more women will help/change the way council has previously operated?

Adding one or more women to Council will bring a diversity that can only make the Council stronger. Scientifically men and women's brains are different and I believe that means in most cases, women and men don't behave, feel, think or respond in the same ways, either on the inside or on the outside. Women tend to be more in touch and expressive about their emotions, they are more empathetic and able to consider information that is not just obvious and stated. Women usually are discovery-oriented as apposed to mission-task oriented and not afraid to quickly adjust, re-evaluate or modify goals. These women will possess differences in decision-making styles. This will change the interactions for members of Council, they will have to adapt and learn to work with different perspectives, personalities and passions. Having any of these women on Council will mean a change in how the Council approaches projects, initiatives and policies and the way they evaluate their impact in the Community will be considered from a wider angle. These women will bring past experiences, creativity and expertise with them that will be completely different than the men on Council and can only add in a positive way. Perhaps they will change the status quo in unexpected ways. Whenever we can examine our community in a different light or use different tools to address current issues, we have a better chance of finding effective solutions and meeting the needs of more residents and continuing Spruce Grove to be a Community of Choice.

6. What is your stance on photo radar?

I believe photo radar (ATE) was first implemented in our community for safety and I fully support a safer community. Photo Radar is proven to provide benefits and change driver behaviours but I think to be truly used for safety then photo radar cameras operated by officers need to be in school, playgrounds zones or high pedestrian areas. To be effective in reducing speeding, photo radar vehicles have to be visible. Drivers have to know its there and they will modify their driving and slow down. I'm in favor of keeping ATE for red light and stop sign infractions as this lessens "runners" and decreases intersection collisions.

I think part of the issue is photo radar is contracted out to a private third party company. They place the photo radar vehicles in high traffic areas to ticket a high volume of drivers, because that translates into PROFITS. I take exception to photo radar vehicles half-hidden in the bushes, that in itself creates a hazardous distraction for drivers. This sneaky-behind-the-bushes practice is creating a negative optics for our community. If visitors think every time they come through our City they get a speeding ticket for a minor speed infraction they will go around. This will have a negative effect on our businesses and needs to be addressed. Right now the City's photo radar revenue goes into General Funds. I would like to see some funds from photo radar go towards Safety Initiatives in our community like Bike Safety Courses especially for young riders. Perhaps we can do more to encourage bicycle riding and provide targeted safety courses in our community. The revenue could also contribute towards additional crosswalks especially in areas frequented by seniors.

Photo Radar would be cost prohibitive to bring in-house. We don't have the personnel, or the money to pay for the hours it would take to man the vehicles, manage the processing of information, or the equipment to run this ourselves. A third party company could be a workable option, but the City must have more control, and be able to designate and/or have the ability to influence the locations that are targeted by photo radar cameras.

Photo Radar would be cost prohibitive to bring in-house. We don't have the personnel, or the money to pay for the hours it would take to man the vehicles, manage the processing of information, or the equipment to run this ourselves. A third party company could be a workable option, but the City must have more control, and be able to designate and/or have the ability to influence the locations that are targeted by photo radar cameras.