

JOHN DONALD PELECHATY (DON)

I have been interested in politics since I was eighteen. Apprenticing as I did in the funeral business in Chicago, I got a first hand insight into just how corrupt our local governments can become. I soon saw that the answer to our own home grown City Hall problems was to bring the citizens back into the government. When I was elected to council in 1969 we had an open and transparent government . That was achieved through ' Council of the Whole Meetings' that were open to the Public and to the Press. It worked well because it gave the townspeople the opportunity to watch councillors interfacing; we saw some good fights and got to witness councillors that were really defending our rights. We also had the practice of appointing two Ad-Hoc members to each portfolio that were just members of the public. That gave us opinions from the street and also provided training for possible- to- be councillors. We welcomed the public to the meetings, allowed questions to be asked and did not laugh at the questioner! From 1969 (I was on Water and Sewer) I worked to get a stair escalator installed. I could see that so many of our seniors had knee and hip problems and that staircase to council chambers was a real killer. I have been trying to get the council to install a escalator now for fifty three years!! You know there is vast amounts of funds available for that purpose because upper government realizes that all citizens have the right to access government chambers! But that is not the case in Portage la Prairie. My life experience has been varied, I travelled Europe extensively, owned a local downtown drug store (Hargreaves Drugs). I am a licensed funeral director, my wife, a nurse, and I operated a successful bed an breakfast on First Street and we owned many rental buildings in Winnipeg. My wife Donnee and I raised her two children from a previous marriage... Cameron has two degrees , Urban Studies and Town Planning, Laura is married and living in Duncan, BC. I am a historic buff and admire our local history and strive to preserve the old George Hill mansion on the Island. I believe our lake and natural beauty will become the key to a strong tourist inflow. When elected I will do my very best to restore democracy to Portage la Prairie. Thank you.

