



About **Paul Van Meerbergen**

I have been married to my wife for 37 years. Together, we have raised four children and have five grandchildren. We have lived in Westmount for 40 years.

For over 30 years I was a manager of an advanced manufacturing company for the auto industry. I am recently retired.

I attended the University of Waterloo studying history, economics and politics.

Representation on Council and Boards

- Infrastructure & Corporate Services Committee
- Civic Works Committee
- Corporate Services Committee
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee
- Lake Huron Water Board
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Over the years, I have chaired Council Civic Works Committee (2x); the Lake Huron Water Board (2x) and the Audit Committee (2x)

If you would like a sign, to join our team or a ride to the polls please contact: pvanme1053@rogers.com or 519-641-7611

On October 26th, Re-Elect



- **Traffic congestion**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Homelessness**
- **Crime**

A Lively Democracy Leads to Prosperity

Paul Van Meerbergen

for Councillor Ward 10



paulvanmeerbergen.ca

Traffic congestion

Traffic across the city has been a near nightmare for a long time. Left-wing politicians have invariably stood in the way of traffic alleviation. In contrast to this obstructionism, I have, over the course of several terms pushed, and achieved traffic improvements, particularly in Ward 10. For example, I take responsibility for improving the Southdale corridor to four lanes from Wharncliffe to Farnham Rd. In 2027, Southdale will be widened right over to Col. Talbot Rd. In 2028, Bostwick Rd. will be widened to four lanes with a traffic circle installed at the Pack Rd. intersection.

Elsewhere, I have directed re-paving of Barclay Rd., Woodcrest Blvd. and McMaster Court. And I supported traffic enhancements on Belmont Dr. from St. Lawrence Blvd. to Wharncliffe and on Viscount Rd. from Wonderland to Pine Valley Blvd. Leland Rd. & Leland Pl. are slated for repaving in 2027.

I supported reconstruction programs on Dunsmoor Rd., Jamaica Ct. and Andover Dr. (2027)

Finally, while there remains some discussion about traffic calming measures, you can't beat them as safety features for children, mothers and seniors.

For the future, I intend to keep pressing for more road widenings and for higher sustainable budgets on roads. Most importantly for 2027 and beyond, council must initiate a full court press on widening Wonderland Rd, and this includes commencing six-lanes from Southdale right up to Sarnia Rd. In 2028, Bostwick Rd will be widened to four lanes, with a traffic circle at Pack Rd.

"Paul is working to cut the red tape at City Hall, helping to get more housing stock onto the market sooner. This helps make purchasing a home less expensive for young families such as mine."

Heather Stewart, Ward 10 resident

Homelessness

Currently, city council is stuck on providing "housing hubs" for transient drifters. In addition, council has already gone ahead and constructed a "mini-housing" cluster in the deep south end. What council apparently did not take into account was the culture of illicit drug use that invariable travels along with these housing hubs and mini-housing clusters.

In the end, homelessness is just the outcome of an insidious drug culture that surrounds middle class good intentions; it is the symptom of a far deeper problem, which we are now discovering is just a band-aid on a growing malaise. **Needless to say the province needs to take up its responsibility for this issue.**



"Traffic congestion is a serious problem in London.

We appreciate Paul's ongoing efforts to widen and improve our roads."

- April Barber, Educator

Affordable housing

Affordability of housing has become ubiquitous in our economy and political parlance. This is the inevitable result when supply does not meet demand. The demands of in-migration and an increasing number of seniors who are just not giving up on their longtime residences; these factors lie at the root of this conundrum. At the entry level of housing, young people are being squeezed, principally for the lack of capital for down payments. The current trade dispute with the US is not going to help these various pressures.

The third level of government, municipalities, certainly do not have the fiscal capacity to make a dent in the problem. But there are ameliorative initiatives that city council can offer that can assist housing prices. The first item is to reduce the burden of regulation faced by home builders. Current regulation very considerably extends the time taken to erect suburban housing stock on the edge of the city. Since time is money, the price of housing just escalates.

Next, dumping development charges on home builders, which are then immediately passed to home purchasers makes for a vicious cycle of rising

house prices. Development charges to pay for municipal infrastructure are necessary, but new home buyers should not be on the hook for these charges. The good news is the city is lowering development charges with the help of the provincial and federal governments.



Critical Votes for Ward 10

- Voted against the 40% increase for councillors' wages.
- Moved a motion, which was endorsed by Council, to accelerate by one year the installation of flashing crosswalk lights at Viscount & Steeplechase. This greatly adds to the safety of the many children who cross to attend Sherwood Fox School.
- Voted against the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) worth 10s of millions of dollars.
- Voted against the excessive number of property expropriations for BRT along Wellington South, costing the city 10's of millions of dollars.
- Supported budget reductions on city expenditures.
- Supported transferring the budget surplus to debt reduction - I would have preferred a tax cut instead.
- The lowest spending member on council - for the last 5 terms.

Crime

Over the course of the last term, police budgets have been put on solid footing. As a result, we see more visible engagement to apprehend itinerant scofflaws and harden criminals. This improvement in police services including larger complements of officers has been carried out at a comparative lesser price for tax payers.

So, currently, we have an economy of costs with an upgraded police complement.

For the future, we need to sustain police budgets across the city.

"Paul helped my neighbours and I resolve a serious drug issue in our area."

John Howard, Ward 10 resident