

Good evening Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to speak as I present my case as to why I would make a great Ward 4 Councillor.

While I may not have grown up in Brock like some of the other candidates, I did however choose to raise my family here. I have been a constituent of Ward 4 for the past 9 years after moving from Stouffville. My husband and I wanted to raise our family in a rural community, giving our children the opportunity to grow up as we did. Upon becoming residents of Brock we quickly realized that it was very much what we were looking for, the small town community spirit that brings out the best in people and nurtures the sense of belonging of all ages.

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources (DFRR) since 2020 and currently sit as Past President. I served as the President for 4 years before stepping down to make way for someone with children actively using the program as DFRR runs the EarlyON sites in Beaverton, Cannington, Port Bolster, Sunderland & Uxbridge. In my role as President, I actively engaged in making community partnerships that helped our fundraising efforts reach and in some years excel our goals. I understand the value of these relationships and the mutual respect it takes to keep them in good standing. DFRR runs Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, a subcommittee that I also sit on. The work DFRR does is extremely beneficial to the Township of Brock as we have locations in all of the communities. My role in the organization gives me insight into the needs of young families in Brock.

I currently sit on the S.C.C. for Sunderland P.S. and have for the past 4 years, participating and organizing the different fundraising events at the school.

I run the day to day of our small hobby farm. I believe that teaching our children the value of hard work helps them persevere when things get tough and a farm can humble you with these lessons. This is one of the many qualities that I will bring to the table, as I understand the dedication, determination and teamwork it takes to accomplish larger goals.

I have a background in the hospitality industry, which has given me an incredible ability to clearly communicate with a variety of people from various backgrounds. It has also taught me problem solving skills in a fast paced environment, diplomacy and negotiation skills.

I have had the pleasure of working with Councillor Pettingill on two occasions when she served as Ward 4 Councillor. In both cases she showed compassion for the issue and a desire to help resolve the problem quickly. The type of demeanor I would want from someone in the position and the same attitude I would bring to the role, handling constituents' issues promptly and having open lines of communication is something I would whole heartedly strive to do.

I have attached a letter of reference from Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources Executive Director Heather Doner.

In conclusion, I want to thank the Council very much for your time and consideration for the position.



October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this reference for Jessica Pizzulo, who served as President of the Board of Directors for Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources (DFRFR) for four years. As the Executive Director of this non-profit organization and registered charity, I had the privilege of working closely with Jessica throughout her tenure on our volunteer board.

Jessica consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, organization, and dedication to our mission of supporting rural families in Brock Township and surrounding areas. She maintained meticulous records, (both in organized binders and digital files) ensuring the board's operations remained transparent, accessible, and efficient. Her strong communication skills and natural ability to chair meetings kept our team focused, productive, and engaged.

A passionate advocate for our organization, Jessica spearheaded numerous fundraising initiatives and community events, contributing significantly to our financial sustainability and public visibility. Her deep understanding of rural Brock Township and the unique challenges faced by its families, brought invaluable perspective to our discussions and decision-making.

Jessica is a thoughtful listener and an articulate speaker who approaches challenges with empathy and professionalism. She possesses a remarkable ability to manage conflict constructively, fostering collaboration and mutual respect among board members and community partners alike. Her insights—shaped by her experiences as a parent, businessperson, and community member—ensure she considers a variety of viewpoints before making decisions that best serve the organization and its stakeholders.

Having witnessed Jessica's dedication, leadership, and deep commitment to community, I have every confidence that she would make an outstanding Ward 4 Councillor for Brock Township. She brings the same integrity, compassion, and pragmatic problem-solving approach to every role she takes on. Jessica has a proven ability to listen to residents, understand diverse perspectives, and act decisively in the best interests of the community.

I hold Jessica in the highest regard and have no doubt that her skills, values, and commitment to rural families and communities will make her an exceptional representative for Ward 4.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

**Heather Doner**

Executive Director, RECE

Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources