Marc Mundell

Councillor candidate



Why I am running for Council:

I believe that RMH and in particular Clearwater County are on the cusp of a fundamental shift in tourism and economic drivers, the likes of which very few Counties throughout Alberta are in line to experience. I believe that this is evidenced by 14 Candidates standing for election in RMH and a further 21 for Clearwater County. The drive towards a tourism economy along David Thompson corridor and the Cowboy Trail, coupled with the twinning of H11 lends itself towards the ballooning in growth for the region. It highlights the natural beauty of Clearwater County, with Rocky Mountain House positioned as the gatekeeper of the keys to the west.

My perceived observation is of an influx in population from within the province, and country, but also, a sought-after landing point for many immigrant families choosing, like I did, to call RMH home. I am a father of two young boys, and I want them to experience the benefit of rural lifestyle coupled with opportunities often ringfenced for those living in the bigger towns or cities.

Top priorities:

My priorities as a Town Councillor are to better understand the diverse desires and aspirations of elected councillors to collaborate and effect positive change. Furthermore, to engage with Clearwater County Councillors and the Chamber of Commerce on shared projects to grow the tax base and increase revenue generation for the entire region.

I am fully aware of the juggling act required for developing infrastructure to accommodate the needs of not only a growing community but in equal measures, an aging populace. To this end there is equal need to proactively provide additional childcare facilities which can cater to the influx of residents and accommodate the fluctuating demands of shift workers, but also, to cater to the baby boomers and elderly that have chosen to retire in our town and county. I will strive for increased access to recreational public facilities and educational programming for younger members of the community to instil and foster a healthy, active lifestyle.

I experienced first-hand the benefits and legacy that the inaugural Alberta Masters Games had on the community back in 2019. How it galvanised organisations within our community, cultivated interactions and lasting relationships and attracted tourists from around the province. I believe that community events profoundly impact the small and established businesses and allow interactions often reserved for hardships and struggle. I believe that the roll-out and implementation of the collaborative Community Foundation for RMH and Clearwater County could further accomplish meaningful change and serve as a conduit for growth and prosperity.

I would further encouraging local businesses to emulate the work undertaken by amongst others, the Coop Aquatic Centre to invest in developing youth through early employment and stimulating career progression. That we as a community develop, nurture and mentor our own talent, and in so doing, retain their collective knowledge and wisdom.

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A little bit about me:

- I was born in South Africa and have lived in RMH since 2017.
- Currently a community member for the Unstoppable Conversations Non-Profit Group.
- Previously served as Chairperson of The Rocky and Clearwater County Recreation Board from 2018–2019.
- Formerly a member of the now defunct, Ignite Rocky and Clearwater County Board.
- Served on the Board of Directors for the 2019 Alberta Masters Games.
- I stood, unsuccessfully, in the 2022 by-election.
- Currently serve on the board of directors for Athletics Alberta, and the Red Deer Titans Track and Field Club.
- During the winters I am a recreational curler and occasionally ski. During the summer months I enjoy running marathons, cycling (road bike), triathlons (half ironman) and the occasional round of golf.
- I hold master's degrees in Kinesiology, and Sport Administration.
- I work as an independent contractor in the high-performance sport arena:
 - o I am an independent service provider for the Olympic Broadcasting Services;
 - I deliver anti-doping athlete education seminars at World Championships and Youth Olympic Games;
 - I coach track & field athletes competing at international level Pan Am Games and World Athletics Championships;
 - I have worked as a Team Liaison Officer for the Vancouver Rugby 7s and FIFA2010 Soccer World Cup;
 - Volunteered at the Youth Olympic Winter Games in Lausanne, Switzerland;
 - I hold two master's degrees: Kinesiology; Sport Management and Technology;
 I served as Sports Director for Team South Africa to three FISU Summer.
 - I served as Sports Director for Team South Africa to three FISU Summer Universiades;
 - I am a three-time Summer Olympian, having represented South Africa;
 - Whilst living in RMH, I trained through the Canadian winters and represented South Africa at the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha, and the Tokyo2020 Olympics.

I include the following passage from Nelson Mandela, spoken at the first Laureus World Sports Awards:

"Sport has the power to change the world.

It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.

It speaks to youth in a language they understand.

Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair.

It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.

It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination".