

My name is Mary Harbocian. Wawa has been my summer home for almost 40 years, and now is my permanent home these past 4 years. My husband, Martin Rodger, spent many years of his childhood growing up here. I have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

I have worked with the public for years as a hair designer, a school bus driver, a music store employee, and a journalistic writer.

When my children were young, I volunteered at their school as an educational assistant. I also volunteered at a Music Association in Southern Ontario as the Newsletter Editor/Folk Concert organizer. I was a member of Friends of Schizophrenics in Southern Ontario. My eldest brother has schizophrenia, and because of that, I have an understanding and compassion for people suffering from mental illness. I ran an Open Mike in Southern Ontario. I am a musician and have been in various bands for years. I have my own "Upcycled Clothing Design" business called "CARMA." My husband and I ran an Airbnb in our home and featured "House Concerts".

I am an outdoors enthusiast, and so I connect deeply with this area. In my 30's, I made it to the Nationals in Saskatoon as a Marathon Canoe Racer. I also took the Stand-Up Paddle Board Instructor course at Superior Adventures. I canoe, kayak, and swim the clear waters of this area.

Since moving here, I have initiated the "Friends of the Park", trying to refurbish Vallee Park. I am on the "Wawa Music Festival" committee, the "Goose Nest" committee, and the fledgling "Arts Council" committee.

Because of my background experience, and being an Outside the Box thinker, I would bring a clear understanding of the large, and growing, Creative Community to the table. I have a vision for the future of Wawa. The potential for this town is off the charts. We just have to believe that and move forward boldly.

Every successful town has a BIG table, where everyone is invited to sit and share ideas. Every successful town is diverse, and welcomes diversity.

The days of Wawa being a one-horse mining town are over. We need to reinvent ourselves. Tourism and Retirement are two areas that need to be expanded on and welcomed.

I love this area. I would like to share that love with the people of this town.

Miigwech- Thank you

Mary Harbocian