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York-Durham All-Candidates Debate draws crowd at The Link



By ANGIE SULLIVAN

ALL-CANDIDATES DEBATE. PHOTO: GEORGINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There wasn't an empty seat at The Link in Sutton for the York-Durham All-Candidates Debate on Wednesday, April 16. Our five candidates addressed an engaged crowd while talking about hot topics like Trump's tariffs, immigration, affordable housing, crime, local business, and climate change.

Rob Grossi, the Liberal Party candidate, summed up the collective sentiment and said, "This is the most important election of our lifetime."

Georgina Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Anderson, opened the debate with, "Democracy is strongest when it is rooted in

CONT. ON PAGE 3



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DEBATE CONT. FROM PAGE 1

respect.” She said, “At the end of the day, we all want what’s best for this country, and we just have different ideas about how to get there.”

President and CEO of the Central York Chamber of Commerce, Chris Emanuel, moderated the debate and presented the questions submitted by the public. The Conservative Party candidate Jacob Mantle said his party would “continue the tradition of tenacious advocacy on the issues that matter. Whether that is a national issue like affordability or local issues like Lake Simcoe and the Baldwin aerodrome.”

Matt Pearce, Green Party, introduced himself and said, “I’m absolutely the underdog here; let’s not forget that.” Pearce said his party proposes “no income tax on your first \$40,000 earned.”

Justin Graham from the New Democratic Party said, “The NDP and myself will be there to stand up for you and your families.”

Patricia Conlin from the Peoples Party said, “Enough is enough; it’s time for new leadership in Ottawa.”

Canadian nationalism rang strong when Emanuel asked, “What do you feel is the best course of action Canada can take in regard to tariffs?”

“Canada will never be the 51st State; I reject that entirely.” Mantle said. “Unleash our natural resources, build pipelines, get our resources to market.”

Graham said, “The government needs to resist cutting staff and supports for Canadians.” Conlin said, “We’ve been sold out with the free trade deal that de-industrialized our country. I want to bring industry back home.”

Pearce said, “Ripping and shipping, pumping crude oil East to West, is not going to solve this problem.”

“We need to fight back!” Grossi said, “We have to retaliate in whatever way we can.”

Issues that ignited strong reactions from spectators included affordable housing, the growing problem of crime in Georgina, and the health of Lake Simcoe.

Wilma Bunnik sat in the front row and said, “Sometimes one votes for the person who can do the most for the riding; sometimes one votes for the party platform and its leader. For me, this is a Win-Win election.”

Karen Wolfe, founder of the Georgina Post and host at Rogers tv Georgina, said, “I was happy to see all candidates attending the debate, and while it may not have changed the vote in the minds of decided voters, it may have helped the undecided make an informed decision.”

You can watch the debate on Youtube: (<https://tinyurl.com/y55cm2ab>).

Karen Wolfe’s coverage of the election on Rogers tv Georgina after the polls close on voting day on Monday, April 28.



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GEORGINA Post

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COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sutton Legion - Friday Night Dinner (5 to 6:30 p.m.): April 25, Haddock Fish with Wedges & Coleslaw; May 2, Pork & Chicken Kabobs;(\$15) Everyone Welcome. (21 East Street, Sutton).

The Good Food Collective - Community Lunch, Weds, 12 to 1:30 p.m. April 30, Cheesy Quesadillas with Mexican Corn Salad. Takeout \$8 with reservation. Tel: 905-722-4616. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

Hospice Georgina's 2025 Annual On-Line Auction, Until May 4. Over 200 items, including new and gently used items, gift certificates, etc. Check out Hospice Georgina's Facebook page. (The Link, 20849 Dalton Rd, Sutton)

"Elvis" in concert with Garry Wesle. Sat, April 26, 7pm Tickets \$30.00. To reserve : officeknoxsutton@gmail.com or call: 905-722-3742. (Knox United Church, 34 Market St. Sutton)

Town of Georgina - Tree Giveaway, Sat, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Town is celebrating earth day by giving away three different varieties in two-gallon pots: Red Maple, Red Oak & Black Cedar. There are 2,000 trees available and Georgina residents are allowed two per vehicle. First come, first served. (ROC, 26557 Civic Centre Rd, Keswick).

Ontario Society of Artists (OSA) Members Exhibition, GCAC - Until April 27. Don't miss this opportunity to support Canadian artists and experience the richness of our artistic community! (GCAC, 149 High St, Sutton)

Port Bolster Hall - Spaghetti Luncheon, Sun, April 27. 12 noon to 4 p.m. \$15 Adult, \$10 kids 6-12, 0-5 Free. E-transfer accepted. Call Barb 705-437-1821 or Text 705-716-0249 (Port Bolster Community Hall, 31416 Lake Ridge Rd)

Georgina Care's Smile Cookie campaign. Available April 28 to May 4 at local Tim Horton's. Proceeds will be donated to Georgina Cares.

Lake Simcoe Gardeners Meeting, April 28, 7 p.m. Speakers: Doug & Terry Kennedy on "Orchids" (Keswick United Church, 177 Church St, Keswick)

Spring Market & Vendors Sale - Sutton by the Lake Club House, Sat, May 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (112 Roxanna Drive, Sutton West)

Udora Leaksdale Lions Club 39th Annual Canoe River Run, Sat, May 3, Start 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. 14 km ride down the Pefferlaw River from the Zephyr Rd to the Pefferlaw Dam. Min Pledge \$30. BBQ Hot Dog Lunch at Finish and shuttle service back to the start. Register at Start or online with Dave Minns illc.events@gmail.com.

Swap and Sell and eWaste event, Sat, May 10, 8 a.m. to 1 pm. Dispose of old, unused or broken electronics to be recycled, free of charge. (Georgina Ice Palace, 90 Wexford Dr, Keswick)

Georgina-Brock Garden Club Plant Auction, Mon. May 12, viewing 6:30 pm, auction starts 7 p.m. Huge selection of perennials, annuals, herbs, seedlings, veggies and more. (Pefferlaw Lions Hall, 38 Pete's Lane)

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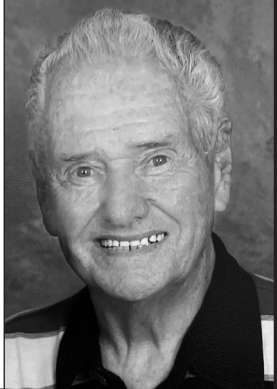


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JACOB MANTLE (CPC), MATT PEARCE (GREEN), PATRICIA CONLON (PPC), JUSTIN GRAHAM (NDP), ROB GROSSI (LIBERAL). PHOTO: GCC

Meet the candidates for York-Durham

By MIKE ANDERSON

The Post asked each candidate to answer the same eight questions. Their responses have been edited for length. NDP candidate Justin Graham declined to participate.

JACOB MANTLE
(Conservative Party of Canada)

1. Why do you want to represent York-Durham?

My family has lived here in our new riding of York—Durham for seven generations. This is where my roots are, and this is where my home is. I have served our community before, as a young town councillor. I saw and continue to see the challenges families face here and I learned that government works best when it gets out of the way and lets people live their own lives and build their own success. I’m leaving my career as an international trade lawyer and returning to public service because I believe this is an important election for Canada. After a decade of weak economic policies, we desperately need a new Conservative government led by Pierre Poilievre that will put Canada First and restore common

sense to our government.

2. What qualities/attributes/experience can you bring to the table as our local MP?

As an international trade lawyer, I have seen the devastation that ten years of weak Liberal economic policies have had on Canadian companies seeking to expand and compete globally, and companies looking to invest and do business in Canada. As a former town councillor, I understand how to navigate governments and bureaucracies to get things done and deliver results for our community. As someone who has lived in York—Durham my entire life, I am deeply familiar with our shared history and the present challenges we face. I will be a voracious advocate for our community in Canada’s Parliament.

3. What are the major issues Georgina voters want to discuss with you at the door?

I’m hearing every day from voters in Keswick, Sutton, Pefferlaw, and across Georgina who are concerned about increasing unaffordability and the rising cost of living after

ten years of weak Liberal economic policies. Residents are increasingly concerned about the rise in violent gun and gang crime in Georgina, after weak catch-and-release Liberal policies have allowed violent offenders to commit crimes and victimize our community without consequence - again and again. Protecting Lake Simcoe and preserving our natural heritage is something many residents care deeply about, and there are many who want to see the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund—originally introduced by the previous Conservative government—restored.

4. What elements of your party’s platform resonate most with Georgina voters?

Residents of Georgina resonate with the Common Sense Conservative plan to axe the carbon tax, remove the GST on new homes, fix the budget, and stop the crime. Our plan is focused on making life more affordable for young families, working professionals, and seniors, while also ensuring Canada can stand strong on its own two feet in the face of increased aggression from

the United States.

5. Why do you feel your leader is the best person to deal with the current U.S. administration?

Pierre Poilievre has been talking about the need to stand up for Canada’s economy, make ourselves more competitive, and unleash Canadian job creators for years. A decade of failed economic policy from Justin Trudeau and his key economic advisor, Mark Carney, has left Canada uniquely vulnerable to the Americans—and they are taking full advantage of us. Now, in a desperate attempt to mislead voters and win an election, Mark Carney is attempting to distance himself from the very economic policies he helped orchestrate. No Canadian leader can control President Trump.

Pierre Poilievre will rebuild our economy so that we can stand up to Trump from a position of strength—and never be in a position of weakness again.

6. If you are successful, what will you do to improve the everyday lives of Georgina residents?

I will work tirelessly to bring

home lower prices and higher paycheques for residents of York—Durham by cutting taxes, ending inflationary deficits, and making life affordable again. Families in Georgina are working harder but falling further behind—and it's because ten years of failed Liberal economic policy has driven up the cost of everything. I'll fight to deliver lower taxes, build homes—not bureaucracy—so young people can afford to live where they grew up, and get government gatekeepers out of the way so paycheques go further. As part of Pierre Poilievre's Common Sense Conservative team I will work to make life more affordable, make work pay, and put people back in control of their lives.

I will also be a strong advocate for protecting the future of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. A healthy and sustainable Lake Simcoe is important to the entire region of Central Ontario. The former Conservative government created the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund with an investment of \$59 million between 2007–2017, which led to tangible results such as phosphorus reduction, improvements in lake water quality, and an increase in native fish species. I will support the re-establishment of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund to sustain Lake Simcoe for future generations.

7. If you are elected, can we expect to see more Federal infrastructure investments or expanded services in our riding?

I'll fight for federal investments that actually serve the people of Georgina and York—Durham. If there's a strong case for a project that helps our local economy or supports our community, I'll be a champion for it. But I won't support bloated government programs that waste your money, lead to higher taxes, and deliver nothing.

8. Is there anything you would like to add?

This election is about the

future of our country—and the direction we want to take. After the lost Liberal decade, Canadians are working harder but getting less. Families and Seniors in York—Durham are feeling the squeeze every day—from higher taxes and grocery bills to out-of-control housing costs and rising crime.

I'm running because I believe in a better way. A government that puts Canada First, rewards hard work, and restores the hope that this country once inspired in young people, seniors, and everyone in between. I bring experience as an international trade lawyer, a former town councillor, and most importantly, as someone who calls this riding home. I've lived here my whole life—my roots run deep, and I care deeply about the future of our communities.

ROB GROSSI (Liberal Party of Canada)

1. Why do you want to represent York-Durham?

I want to represent York/Durham because it's my home and it needs more support and recognition on a National level. I Love my Country and I think right now it needs me.

2. What qualities/attributes/experience can you bring to the table as our local MP?

I have 24 years of experience as an elected official (17 as the Mayor of Georgina and 21 at the Region of York). My knowledge, leadership, experience and my ability to build strong partnerships at all government levels will represent us well.

3. What are the major issues Georgina voters want to discuss with you at the door?

Not only are people concerned about the health of Lake Simcoe, or the threat of giant landfill sites (disguised as airstrips) they are worried about our Sovereignty and the threats of the 51st state from south of the border.

4. What elements of your

party's platform resonate most with Georgina voters?

I think people see Prime Minister Mark Carney's decisive leadership capabilities and our platform of inclusivity as a key to future good government.

5. Why do you feel your leader is the best person to deal with the current U.S. administration?

I think it's obvious that the opposition is Trump like in many ways and that our leader has the ability and the knowledge to steer this Country forward by creating new alliances internally and externally to strengthen our position internationally. Prime Minister Mark Carney has the life experiences to back up his words.

6. If you are successful, what will you do to improve the everyday lives of Georgina residents? Housing? Jobs? Food Inflation? Crime? Protecting Lake Simcoe?

I will work with my colleagues in Ottawa and make them aware of the importance of who and where we are in Georgina and York/Durham. I would listen to my community partners and work with them on solutions that best suit our riding. I will use my network of good relationships in the building and construction industry to advance the national housing strategy. I have done it before Provincially with the 404 extension and I can do it again by forging partnerships to help better the lives of my friends and constituents.

7. If you are elected, can we expect to see more Federal infrastructure investments or expanded services in our riding?

Yes. My leadership has always been about working together, identifying problems and finding solutions. Whether it was Health Care, Trades and Training, Infrastructure projects (like water and sewers in Willow Beach) or transportation improvements (404 extension) they don't happen unless you create good

partnerships. I intend to build on my successes of the past for the benefit of everyone that I will have the privilege of representing as your new Member of Parliament.

8. Is there anything you would like to add?

This is the most important election of our lifetime and we need strong, knowledgeable, passionate leaders to protect our Sovereignty and guide us forward. I'm willing to give everything I have to work with Prime Minister Mark Carney to achieve those goals.

PATRICIA CONLIN (People's Party of Canada)

1. Why do you want to represent York-Durham?

I am a small business owner, an author and international speaker. I understand the pressures facing small businesses in York-Durham and want to support them.

I couldn't stay silent in 2021 when the government locked down our small businesses but left big box stores open. Standing up for our residents is part of my commitment to being the leader that people need in this riding. My late husband and I moved to Durham in 2005 to create jobs when we bought a local car dealership. We raised our 2 boys here and I have been an active part of the community ever since.

Over the past 4 years, I have seen how harmful policies supported by all the mainstream parties have eroded our standard of living and health. I would like to be the champion to prioritize the needs of citizens in this riding over the wants and agendas of those connected to the Ottawa establishment, NGOs and lobby groups. I also want to protect our precious farmland, parks, lakes, wetlands, heritage and quality of life.

2. What qualities/attributes/experience can you bring to the table as our local MP?

CONT. FROM PAGE 7

I possess the qualities of honesty, courage and determination and an ability to listen and respond to real needs. I have run a small recruitment and leadership development firm for over 20 years and have excellent negotiation, team building and conflict management skills. I understand the pressures involved in staying profitable and want to help our small businesses thrive. I am also a Registered Holistic Nutritionist, Certified Emotional Intelligence Trainer and understand some of the areas we can improve our Healthcare sector. I am a mother, a Christian and am guided by my faith to always make the right choices for my community. I will never stay silent in the face of harmful or unjust mandates or Bills and will put the residents of York-Durham first.

3. What are the major issues Georgina voters want to discuss with you at the door?

The biggest issues voters are asking us about include; how we will handle the Tariffs, how

we can protect jobs and how we will deal with the healthcare and housing crisis. Voters are also concerned with the growing levels of violence in communities and the unchecked mass immigration levels.

4. What elements of your party's platform resonate most with Georgina voters?

Pausing Immigration, Restoring Affordable Home Ownership and Living Wages, Prioritizing Small Business Vitality, lower all taxes and Protecting Freedom of Speech and Giving people more authority over their own lives and incomes. People in Georgina agree that our platform if the best for the economy and is the only one putting Canadians first. Residents agree that our position to remove BOTH the carbon tax and all carbon pricing schemes (proposed by the Liberals and Conservatives) will greatly help boost our resource sector, businesses and farmers. Residents also agree that Canada needs to pause

immigration as we have allowed too many foreigners to come in unscreened and it is causing a housing and healthcare crisis. We need to balance immigration with economic needs and ensure York-Durham residents have access to essential services and care. Residents also like that we propose cutting wasteful foreign spending and instead focusing on Canada first policies to meet growing homelessness and food insecurity. Finally, many residents see that the PPC platform is the only one that will focus on protecting Canadian Sovereignty by withdrawing from organizations and treaties that do not respect our autonomy and independence, negotiating a win-win trade deal and protecting all rights and free speech in our country.

5. Why do you feel your leader is the best person to deal with the current U.S. administration?

Maxime Bernier is the best leader to deal with the current U.S. administration. He is

tough, seasoned, experienced in the private sector and can see the bigger picture beyond what is imposed on voters by establishment politicians and biased mass media.

He understands that a trade war will be devastating to our economy and jobs and will raise prices for already struggling Canadians. Instead of counter tariffs, Canada needs to sit down with the US, and negotiate a fair win-win trade deal. The US is our largest trading partner, closest neighbour and strongest ally. We need to reject anti-American talk by both the Liberals and Conservatives and negotiate a good deal for Canada instead to protect jobs and the economy.

6. If you are successful, what will you do to improve the everyday lives of Georgina residents? Housing? Jobs? Food Inflation? Crime? Protecting Lake Simcoe?

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down. This will also protect Lake Simcoe and farmland by drastically reducing housing demand, and pressures for sprawl development. Food Inflation can be relieved with tax relief policy to support local, regional farming. Crime can be reduced by tough new laws against drug trafficking, and a halt to light sentencing for repeat offenders of home or car break-ins and shoplifting. I will advocate for lower corporate taxes, promote small business support and do everything possible to protect local jobs and help them thrive. I will advocate for a removal of all carbon taxes to help with food inflation and support local farmers to ensure they are able to grow healthy food. I will advocate to deport criminals and illegals to keep our communities safe and enforce the law for crimes. I will work to get drugs off the streets and advocate for treatment centers to restore health. I am a strong advocate for the environment and will hard to clean up the water, air, soil and food from toxins and pollution and hold polluters accountable. I will protect our greenspaces from overdevelopment and sprawl while advocating for increased access and infrastructure where appropriate. I will meet with teams to discuss strategies to keep our lakes clean and fight for funding in Ottawa.

7. If you are elected, can we expect to see more Federal infrastructure investments or expanded services in our riding?

Job creation, lowering taxes and improving the health and well-being of York-Durham will be my top priorities. My Priorities for Infrastructure would be to improve, upgrade the existing roads, bridges, and railways. We need to start building bridges or tunnels so rail traffic can flourish with fewer level road crossings. This improves safety and reduces pollution & traffic delays.

8. Is there anything you

would like to add?

We need to start thinking about treating root causes of our national and local problems and not just managing the symptoms of a broader decline.

I believe we need new leaders who care enough to speak out against harmful policies and put the residents of York-Durham first. That leader is me. I have had a successful career, raised two boys to be decent men, speak a number of languages and understand how to build thriving teams and communities. I have learned how to be a leader, how to listen and how to inspire people. I have deep knowledge in healthcare, job creation and will work hard to unite everyone with common goals. I have proven myself to be an honest person of integrity and someone who is not afraid to stand up to defend my community. I care deeply for every resident and will fight for a better future for everyone.

MATT PEARCE (Green Party)

1. Why do you want to represent York-Durham?

I have been inspired to enter politics because I have been fed up with my current politician representation, or the lack of it. I want to be an example of how we really can do better, and how government really does affect peoples lives everyday.

2. What qualities/attributes/experience can you bring to the table as our local MP?

I have been in small business, specifically automotive, for the past 20 years. I understand the real challenges that small businesses are facing in these uncertain times. I've led several small businesses into exponential growth and know what it takes to get things done. Those experiences can be extremely valuable in government, to effect real change, when a career politician simply won't have the experience in what can really

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Q: What is a restrictive covenant?

A: A restrictive covenant is a condition that imposes limitations on the use of a property. It is typically a promise by a homeowner to refrain from doing something on the property, such as parking a boat in the driveway, having a billboard sign on the front lawn or cutting down trees without permission. There are a wide range of restrictions that can be put in a restrictive covenant, however, for the restrictive covenant to be enforceable, it must reasonable in nature and cannot be contrary to public interest. Also, the restrictive covenant must be restrictive in nature. This means that, "a home owner must paint the house blue" is not a valid restrictive covenant, whereas, "a home owner must not paint the house blue" is a valid restriction because it is a promise of the home owner not do something as opposed to a promise to do something. Restrictive covenants attach to the land, and therefore can bind future owners of the property. Restrictive covenants do have an expiration date; some have the expiration date listed in the covenant itself, for example, 5 years after the covenant's registration. As per the Land Titles Act, section 119(9), it states that where the covenant has been registered and no date was fixed for its expiry, it is deemed to have expired after forty years after the registration date and may then be deleted from title of the property. Expired restrictions will not bind the subsequent owners of the property and an application can be submitted to have them taken off the title of the property. When new subdivisions are being constructed, builders often use restrictive covenants to maintain control of the appearance of the homes. But mainly they use the restrictive covenants to make sure that the new owners do not alter the grading of the land or the drainage levels. These types of restrictions will either be included in the deed of the property, or registered on title in a separate document.

If you have any questions about restrictive covenants, give our office a call, and one of our lawyers would be happy to answer them. This general legal information (not legal advice) is subject to change, and there may be exceptions based on your specific circumstances.

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CONT. FROM PAGE 9

help.

3. What are the major issues Georgina voters want to discuss with you at the door?

The real issue when talking to people face to face, is that they're worried. Worried about affordability, worried about tariffs and worried about Canada staying a nation.

4. What elements of your party's platform resonate most with Georgina voters?

Affordable housing. No income tax up to \$40,000. Strengthening universal healthcare. Creating a civil defence force. These Green Party policies aren't only great for the York-Durham riding, they're universally good across the nation.

5. Why do you feel your leader is the best person to deal with the current U.S. administration?

The Green Party, for now, are outsiders. A complete refresh, someone who Trump doesn't know, and hasn't yet made an opinion on, would be a good start to reset relations.

6. If you are successful, what will you do to improve the everyday lives of Georgina residents? Housing? Jobs? Food Inflation? Crime? Protecting Lake Simcoe?

If elected, I would have a 3 prong approach to improve the lives for everyone. The first is to attract some value add industries into the area. Whether it be manufacturing, agricultural processing/packaging or investment into efficiencies in

established business. The second is infrastructure investing, we saw with the recent ice storm how fragile our electricity grid is in the riding, we are also underserved by high speed internet, roads and public transportation. York-Durham needs significant improvements in all of those areas. The third is to attract more business from the GTA overall. This is a beautiful area, that isn't highly visited by people from the surrounding areas, partly because of the lack of infrastructure. It's a perfect candidate for people from Toronto and surrounding to make day trips and spend their dollars here.

7. If you are elected, can we expect to see more Federal infrastructure investments or expanded services in our riding?

Infrastructure is one of the most important things for York-Durham to succeed, and something it is severely lacking. We would need to work with municipal and provincial government for investments in the basic infrastructure. Electricity, roads, water management and high speed internet.

8. Is there anything you would like to add?

We are the underdogs in this election, but I'm smart and hard working. With real experience outside the government, I've had to work for everything I have. People like me are the sort of people who should be in government.



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What are my obligations when stopped by police?

Police in Ontario are entitled to stop you in three general circumstances: (1) they see you committing a crime or offence; (b) they reasonably suspect you've committed a crime or offence; or (3) you are driving.

Police are allowed to approach any person and ask them questions. Unless you are being detained to investigate a specific offence, you are not required to answer any of their questions.

If you are detained, section 10(a) and 10(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms grants all persons the right to be promptly informed of the reason for their detention and to retain and instruct counsel without delay.

You should ask the officer why you are being detained and then request to speak to counsel. Do not answer any questions until you have spoken with your lawyer - you have the right to remain silent, use it.

It is good practice to keep the business card or contact information of your lawyer on your person. If you do not have a lawyer, you have the right to phone a family member or friend to get the name and contact information for a lawyer. Most often people are not expecting to get stopped by Police. If you do not plan ahead, you will not have the information necessary to contact your lawyer when you need it most.

Do not mislead police – while you are not required to answer questions, it is the criminal offence of "obstructing justice" to provide police false information including a false name or address.

While Driving:

All motorists in Canada are required to stop for police when directed to do so. Drivers are required to provide their driver's license, registration, and insurance. The police are also entitled to ensure the mechanical fitness of the vehicle.

If Police suspect you've been drinking and driving, upon request you are required by law to provide a sample of your breath into an approved roadside screening device (either drugs or alcohol) and/or to comply with a field sobriety test.

If you are involved in an accident, you are required to report the accident and provide the necessary information.

Drivers stopped at roadside do not have an immediate right to counsel unless they are being charged with a criminal offence.

Passengers of a vehicle are not required to provide any information or answer any questions unless they are suspected of committing an offence.

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