My Four Picks for Thorold Council

Executive Summary

With six councillors instead of eight and fewer elected voices at the regional table, Thorold needs councillors who can do the work, exercise independent judgment and provide full disclosure wherever the law permits. [1–2]

I expect councillors to read the reports, question advice, explain their decisions and disclose costs and relevant conflicts, with clear reasons when information must remain confidential.

My choices are Carmen DeRose, Jim Handley, Ken Steeve and Kieran Daniels: two experienced councillors and two newcomers to council who, in my view, can contribute now and build leadership for the long term. The two cartoons on page 2 illustrate the concerns behind my choices: independent judgment, full disclosure and clear answers.

Carmen DeRose — Experience and scrutiny

Carmen's council experience and willingness to question major financial commitments, including Canada Games Park, are why I value his scrutiny. [3]

Jim Handley — Experience and follow-through

Jim's extensive council experience and motion seeking an external legal opinion on Canada Games Park show the follow-through I value on a smaller council. [3–4]

Ken Steeve — Management and delivery

Ken describes senior executive experience managing projects, teams and substantial budgets. I believe that background can help council assess risks, control costs and deliver results. [5]

Kieran Daniels — Infrastructure and practical knowledge

Kieran's published background includes more than 20 years in engineering consulting and local committee service. I believe he can contribute practical knowledge on growth and infrastructure now and develop as a long-term leader. [6]

I will vote for these four, although I may choose up to six. I endorse their individual ability and judgment and do not expect them to vote as a unit. These are my councillor endorsements; I will not comment on the mayoral race because I know both candidates personally. [7]

Four names on my ballot. Independent judgment, full disclosure and the ability to do the work.

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Two Cartoons and One Standard

I have not endorsed any of the so-called UN-FAB FOUR. My recent articles at www.thoroldelectioncommentary.ca explain my views, and I invite you to read them. The cartoons below revisit that criticism.



Presentation is not the same as an explanation. This invented paint-and-curtain scene expresses my opinion about accessible public accountability.



Read the fine print. This imaginary crossing and celebrity dialogue are satire; no real visit, concert, invitation, endorsement or municipal payment is reported.

Cartoon note: all scenes, dialogue and props are invented. The named councillors are depicted in political satire. Shared votes do not establish secret coordination; the pictures do not prove wrongdoing or suggest support for my endorsements.

Sources and Editing Notes

These are the author's endorsements and assessments of suitability, not guarantees of future performance. Candidate biographies and campaign commitments are attributed to the candidates; they are not independent performance audits. "Newcomers" means new to council, not new to community service. Fewer regional representatives does not, by itself, establish reduced regional funding or services.

[1] City of Thorold — reduction from eight to six councillors.
https://www.thorold.ca/news/news/province-approves-reduced-council-size-for-the-city-of-thorold-for-the-2026-municipal-election/

[2] Niagara Region — Council; 2026 composition of 12 mayors and appointed chair.
https://www.niagararegion.ca/government-and-council/council-and-committees/council/

[3] ThoroldToday — October 4, 2023 reporting on Handley's motion and named votes.
https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/city-council-closes-door-on-canada-games-park-investigation-7639427

[4] Jim Handley — candidate statement, September 21, 2026; describes acting deputy mayor service.
https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/2026-municipal-election-news/know-your-candidates-david-jim-handley-12797620

[5] Ken Steeve — candidate statement, August 10, 2026; career and independent-representation commitments.
https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/2026-municipal-election-news/know-your-candidates-ken-steeve-12615362

[6] Kieran Daniels — candidate website; engineering background and committee roles.
https://www.kierandaniels.ca/

[7] City of Thorold — certified candidates; council ballot permits up to six choices.
https://www.thorold.ca/council-administration/elections/registered-candidates-third-party-advertisers/

Editing note: regional wording describes reduced elected representation. Handley's "acting deputy mayor" title follows his published statement. Kieran Daniels is the spelling on his website and the City's candidate list. Two cartoons selected: "Four on Un Four" and "The long and winding explanation."