



## Stephane Plante, 14 years of experience on the municipal scene and a different perspective

**Deux-Montagnes, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005** - "I am fortunate in that I have 14 years of experience on the municipal scene and that I am entering politics with a new perspective." It was with these words that the leader of the Citizens Party / Stéphane Plante Team described himself during a meeting held in the party's campaign office located at 707, chemin d'Oka.

Stephane Plante is 40 years old, married to France Roy, and the father of three children. Recently he made the leap into municipal politics after having held many positions at Deux-Montagnes' City Hall, such as his position as assistant general manager, which he held until the month of July 2005.

"When I decided to enter municipal politics, it was primarily with the objective of ensuring the long-term existence of our town. In my opinion, the fact that residential development is now almost complete should not represent a barrier to our community's existence, but rather a challenge to overcome. We now have the necessary maturity to get through the next step, which is to offer the same quality services without increasing the financial burden of the taxpayers. We must stop conveying this defeatist message that an entirely developed town is doomed to a slow death. With that kind of thinking, we would inevitably announce the end of all cities. On the contrary, it is an opportunity to make the most of the excellent health of both our public finances and of our infrastructures. We possess winning conditions in order to approach this second step with enthusiasm. Thanks to the tight management practised by Mayor Forget and the Citizens Party team over the last 15 years, as well as the numerous investments made in the various infrastructures of our town, we can look to the future with enthusiasm" declared Stephane Plante.

"Since the beginning of the electoral campaign, during our meetings with the citizens, a constant remains: that of the pride of living in Deux-Montagnes. Everyone, long-time residents as well as residents who have arrived more recently, told us how much they appreciate their town. It will be our duty to

continue along that path over the next four years and I am convinced that the candidates in our team will prove to be up to the residents' expectations" he continued.

On a more personal note, Stephane Plante also declared that his roots and his pride in residing in Deux-Montagnes are deeply set, since his family came to settle in Deux-Montagnes at the end of the 40's.

"In 1994, I had the opportunity to write a book on the history of our town entitled 'Deux-Montagnes 1804-1994'. During all those months devoted to research prior to writing the book, I had the chance to discover, or rather rediscover, through testimonies, reading official documents or old newspapers, the beauty and the distinctive characteristics of our community. By writing such a book, I was hoping to give to the citizens of Deux-Montagnes a chance to have a historical heritage, to better know those people who, both Francophone as well as Anglophone, built this community. Writing this book has allowed me to reinforce the sense of belonging that I feel for my town. I hope to have humbly succeeded in transmitting this feeling to as many persons as possible. Today, with those people in mind, those who were so proud to belong to this community, I enter the mayoralty race. The future Municipal Council will be responsible for ensuring the heritage that was left to us by the builders of our town."

"Of course, my experience on the municipal scene will surely be an asset after November 6<sup>th</sup>. However, my experience as a husband and father of 3 children having to come to terms with today's realities of life are also important advantages. The decisions that we will have to take at City Hall, we will take thinking of the families of Deux-Montagnes. We will take them thinking of our parents, whose realities are often different from ours, but also very important."

"During the 14 years that I spent at City Hall, I gradually climbed the ladder to accede to the position of assistant general manager. Nevertheless, whether it be at the Maison des jeunes, Communications or Urban Planning, an abiding feature remains, that of the direct contact with Deux-Montagnes' citizens and the numerous community organizations in our municipality. During all those years, the main pleasure that I drew from my work was, unquestionably, meeting and talking with my fellow citizens. For me, nothing was more fulfilling than helping a citizen of our community. In all the positions that I held, people always knew that I was there primarily to help them. It is with that state of mind that I intend to occupy the position of mayor on the day following November 6<sup>th</sup>."

"By leading the Citizens Party, I also accepted to replace a man who provided our town with the means to fight today's realities. For 15 years, Pierre-Benoît Forget has worked to make our town what it is today. Of course, when one is a man of decision, one doesn't leave anyone indifferent. In the case of Mr. Forget, he went over the obstacles that stood before him. He demonstrated vision and

defended the interests of his town with great pride. It is in that spirit that I will continue his excellent work of 15 years” concluded Stephane Plante.