

# Lawn running to return as mayor

By [Nick Gardiner](#), Recorder and Times

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 10:47:01 EDT AM



*Sandra Lawn, pictured at her home in Prescott, is running for the mayor's seat in Prescott in the upcoming municipal election.*

The 2006 Girls Inc. Woman of the Year and a former Prescott mayor for 15 years is taking another shot at the town's top political seat.

Sandra Lawn, 76, has filed her papers for mayor in the Oct. 27 municipal election, challenging incumbent Brett Todd, who is seeking re-election for a second term.

Lawn, who was the town's mayor from from 1976 to 1991, said community economic development is her top priority for Prescott and she feels the experience and knowledge gained through ongoing involvement with several local business initiatives.

"I've learned a huge amount about the whole aspect of community economic development," said Lawn, who is a an active board member with the Ontario East Wood Centre and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

The current chairman of Prescott's Downtown Business Improvement Area said establishing a municipal economic development committee that joins council, business leaders and community-minded residents is one way to develop partnerships with different areas of expertise.

"I have an extremely open mind on what we need to do," said Lawn.

She said a paper on regional economic development recently released by the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus provides a solid foundation to move forward.

Similarly, there are positive developments that have come from a push by the Brockville and Area Chamber of Commerce for a regional approach to economic development, said Lawn.

But it is a complicated issue with overlapping jurisdictions, she added.

The former South Grenville Economic Development Commission, which Lawn chaired shortly after coming on as town mayor in 1976, brought industry to the area and was "a very good model" which she hopes will be emulated.

Lawn said she would not criticize the economic development record of the current council, which includes her husband, Robert Lawn, as a councillor who will not seek re-election.

"We need a real program of economic development. I'll leave it at that."

Since stepping aside as mayor in 1991, Sandra Lawn has remained active on a long list of local and regional boards for groups such as the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, the 2007 Ontario Senior Games, Prescott Library and mental health boards and Queen's University boards.

"It's not about holding titles, it's about doing the work with other like-minded people," she said.

At 76, Lawn says she is in good health, exercises vigorously and has the energy for a four-year commitment to municipal government. Other municipal politicians in the area have continued to contribute to their communities at the same age, she added.

And, after more than 20 years away from politics, Lawn is eager to utilize her "growing knowledge" at the council table.

"I've gained a lot of experience and knowledge since then that I wish to put to use for the people in my community."

Lawn said she made the decision after consulting with a number of people and has "a strong and expanding team supporting me.

"I look forward with great anticipation to the unfolding of a vigorous campaign."