

THE OTTER LAKE LAND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION Inc.

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Fall, 2014



Otterlake News

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I look out my window at the lake with fog covering the water I can clearly see that fall is rapidly approaching. I hope everyone had a good summer.

This fall is an important time because of the municipal election. There are a number of candidates old and new that are seeking a position on council. In this newsletter there are questions that have been put forward to all the candidates running for mayor and for seats on Council in the Wards of South Elmsley and Bastard and South Burgess along with their responses. I hope you will find it very interesting reading. Every property owner on the lake has a right to vote and I hope all of you exercise your right.

I hope all of you have a safe and healthy winter.

Your President
Philip Mayhew

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OLLA MEMBERSHIP

The Otter Lake Landowners Association (OLLA) consists of the volunteer executive committee and all of those homeowners who have paid their membership for the year.

Although OLLA is involved in many activities focused on ensuring the continued viability of the lake and surrounding area the major activities are:

- 1.) In conjunction with the Rideau Valley Conservation Agency we monitoring water quality though regular testing and tracking.
- 2.) We work with Rideau Lakes Township to ensure they remain sensitive to the issues of concern to the OLLA community. Current thrust is to focus attention on the disproportionate tax load being carried by water front landowners.
- 3.) Membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) ensures OLLA concerns are heard by this province-wide Federation that represents more than 500 waterfront property groups.

4.) Active participation in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.

In the near term the major thrust will be to get the Lake Plan “off the shelf” and back into proactive development. The lake plan is an action-oriented plan developed by the lake community in consultation with local governments and agencies. To ensure this plan moves forward we need your membership and ongoing support.

Don't forget, according to a study conducted by the University of Maine, recreational lakes that are managed and protected by a strong lake or cottage association support real estate property values that are 30-50% higher and on similar unmanaged lakes.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014-2015 please continue your support by completing the attached membership form and forward your dues to OLLA (see the form for details).

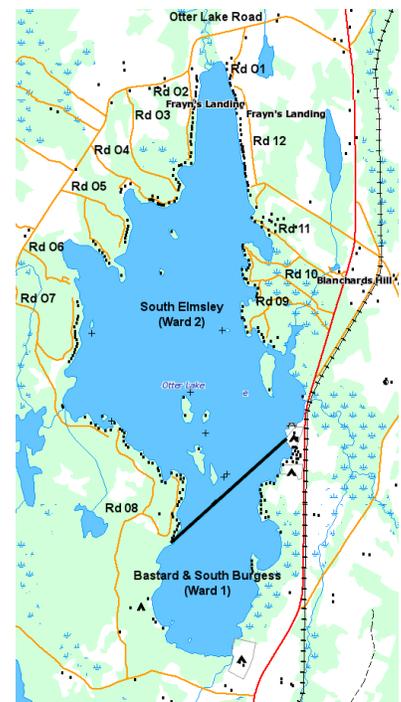
MUNICIPAL ELECTION - 2014

The Otter Lake Landowner's Association is now a member of larger association, The Rideau Lakes Networking Group which is made up of representatives of lake associations from several neighbouring lakes. The group meets to discuss common issues of concern to all lake associations in the Township of Rideau Lakes.

With the upcoming municipal election the Networking Group decided to assist cottagers both seasonal and permanent to have a larger voice in their community. The group knows it is difficult for cottagers to get out here to vote. Many property owners particularly seasonal owners do not realize they have the right to vote at their cottage. For the upcoming municipal election the Township of Rideau Lakes has implemented a vote by mail system. All property owners will be receiving the mail-in ballot form in the next week. However, since it did not appear that there would be an "all candidates" meeting for the upcoming election, the Networking Group prepared a set of "questions to the candidates" and all have sent their responses to the group that we are sharing with you in this newsletter. The Networking Group is not campaigning for any particular candidate, but is merely providing information to you as property owners to help you make an informed decision on voting day.

Because Otter Lake spans two of the wards in the Township (Bastard & South Burgess and South Elmsley) there are 7 candidates running for council within the two wards and each ward elects 2 candidates to council. There are 3 candidates running for the mayoral position and we will all be voting for a new Mayor. The current Mayor, Ron Holman who many of you know is seeking reelection. Rob Dunfield who has been a councillor for the past number of years is also running for the position. Don Wills is the third candidate for Mayor. He is a long standing member of the community and has been a candidate in previous elections.

The the map on the right shows Otter Lake and most of it's access roads. The imaginary line at the South end of the lake indicates where the boundary between the 2 wards lies. It is a line from the boat launch on hwy 15 across the lake on an angle to the property with the red boathouse on the west shore. Properties north of the line will all be in Ward 2 (South Elmsley)



The candidates running for the 2 seats on council in this ward are: Jeff Banks, Karl Fiander, Arie Hoogenboom and Paul Smith.

Ward 1 (Bastard and South Burgess) includes all properties South of the imaginary line. The Otter Lake Motel/Campground and Sandy Beach which includes cottage roads O1 A & B, O1X are all in Ward 1 as are properties accessed from RdO2 off highway15. All properties accessed from Briton Houghton Bay Road including Moonlight Bay Campground and roads O3 and O4 along with other properties on Sugar Bush Hill Road are in Ward1. The candidates running for the 2 seats in this ward are: Paula Banks, Doug Good and Cathy Livingston.

Everyone who is on the voters list in the Township of Rideau Lakes will receive a Vote-By-Mail-Kit. Follow the instructions included with the kit and mail the Election Return Envelope by October 17, 2014. Alternatively, deposit the Election Return Envelope in the Ballot Box in the Clerk's Office at the Municipal Office at 1439 County Road 8 in Chantry by Friday, October 24, 2014, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. It will still be possible to vote in person with or without the Election Return Envelope, but only at the Portland Community Hall, 24 Water Street, Portland on voting day, Monday, October 27, 2014 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you have not received your Vote-By-Mail kit by September 30, 2014, please contact the Clerk's Office (1-800-928-2250).

Visit the election information page on the Township website at <http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca/news-election-voting-2014.html> for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact OLLA at postmaster@otterlake.org or any of the candidates. If you are not sure if you are on the voters list, you can check with either the candidates or the Township office. We hope that many of you will take part in this process and exercise your right to vote.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Here are the questions the Rideau Lakes Networking Group asked our candidates along with their answers (unedited). We hope you find them interesting and informative.

Question 1. What is motivating you to seek the office for which you are running?

Ron Holman (Mayor) *I enjoy working with residents, Staff and Council in directing the Township to meet the needs of all our residents, from Youth to Senior's. It makes me proud when I review the progressive steps taken by Council to meet today's challenges, ranging from environmental issues to the needs of our residents including improved services and infrastructure.*

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) *Having 8 years experience on Council has given me the insight of Municipal politics. I believe the Township can grow and still be the rural setting we all have been motivated to live in now and for our future family members.*

Don Wills (Mayor) *I am a lifelong resident of this township which I deeply care about. I was a Councillor in Bastard & South Burgess in 1990 to 1993. My father was a Councillor & Deputy Reeve in the 1950's in B&B also. On a daily basis I see things happening in the township that DO NOT lead to an effective result monetarily or managerially. I also have noticed in the last year that council as a whole has been lacking in motivation & fresh ideas. I find it strange after sixteen years of amalgamation the township still can't transform its self from the separate townships and villages to one core of structure. By this I mean for example why so many councillors. The rational for allocating community halls, recreation areas, road department salt domes & dispatch locations must be done on an area catchment basis. The 911 address system is based on each separate townships concept from 1992 with cottage roads not named or the same numbers.*

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) *I am running for council to seek lower or more stable taxes, I also want to see new revenue streams investigated and have some ideas to improve development.*

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) In part to encourage ALL segments of our municipality to become interested in relevant issues and have some political representation. A significant segment of the tax-paying community is under-represented at the Council table.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) This is an opportunity to put my 34 years of municipal experience to a practical use and to give something back to the community.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) I have decided to run for Council again this year because I enjoy serving the public and being "their voice in Council". I like meeting people and I am anxious to see the projects started by the present council brought to completion, in particular our ambitious road program. I also want to see the high standard of policing that is now present in Rideau Lakes continued for the safe environment that is now enjoyed by all.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I'm running for office because I put an addition on my waterfront property and it was the worst experience of my life. I think that the township discourages development and they are focusing on the wrong priorities. Without population growth our small villages are going to turn into ghost towns. We are sitting on a gold mine with our waterfront properties and the township instead of encouraging people to develop, our planning and building departments are discouraging people. If elected I would like to have staff contact every seasonal resident and say how can we help you make Rideau Lakes your year-round home.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I have a great love for this area I call home and have been actively involved in issues affecting Rideau Lakes Township and the Big Rideau Lake for many years and know that I can bring a different perspective and business experience to Council.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) In April 2014 I sent in my "letter of interest" when the Township was looking for a replacement for Anders Carson after his resignation. I was voted in by Council so I have been serving for the past 5 ½ months. I have been quite involved over the years in my community and I thought that perhaps being on Council would be another way that I could make a difference and continue to make our township a great place to live and raise our families.

Question 2. What have you done to demonstrate that you are a caring community leader?

Ron Holman (Mayor) I am proud of the issues that have been brought forward and changes that Council has agreed to implement during my term as Mayor in addressing the needs of all age demographics. Some examples are:

1. Constructing affordable Senior's housing to meet the needs of our increasing age demographics. The units were funded by grants and whose revenue covers all costs without burden to the taxpayer.
 2. For our Youth, we have improved many of our recreation facilities, including our soccer fields at Kin Park by adding lights and improving the playing surface.
 3. Provided modern community halls in the North, South and Central areas of our Township to serve as emergency facilities in a time of need. As well as provide facilities for our Senior's and other groups within our community.
 4. Created a unique waste and recycling pickup service for all areas of our Township. Saving on carbon issues and addressing environmental issues.
 5. Established an official plan and zoning by-laws which respect the fragile nature of our lakes and rivers.
 6. Committed to a construction plan which will hard surface 70% of our roads.
- This list could be much longer, however, these are some key answers to your questions.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) Over the last 27 years I have been active and involved in youth soccer, baseball, Rideau Centennial's Parents Committee and Boy Scouts of Canada and with social housing in Bastard and South Burgess. As your member on Council I have been actively involved with the Planning and Advisory Committee, the Joint Beautification and Hall Board committees and as a representative on Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board.

Don Wills (Mayor) Just over a month ago we had a call from the manager of Soap Box Derby in Smiths Falls. The Town of Smiths Falls this year decided it was not going to supply the traffic control for the event. This was the Eastern Ontario Championship and the winner goes next year to the worlds in Akron, Ohio. If it hadn't been for my firm it would not have been held as the event couldn't pay for the \$3500.00 cost. In the winter we plow and sand driveways for elderly neighbours that have lost their

partners. When we had the snowplow contract for the old Bastard and Burgess Township we always plowed St. Peters Church in Newboyne. I also belong to Otter Masonic Lodge in Lombardy & Tunis Shriners in Ottawa.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) I have always been a community supporter either as a council member in Smiths Falls for 12 years or through our family's volunteer efforts. I see that Rideau Lakes has started down the dangerous path of borrowing more and more money in order to keep taxes low and it scares me. Over this last term of council we have went from just over 6 million debt to just under 10 million and we still raised taxes every year.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) I have been a board member with several charitable and non-profit organizations including a 3-year appointment as President of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). I have served as a Lake Steward, an outside liaison with the community foundation County Clothesline, a board member of the charter school New Horizons, a Presidential advisor at Carleton University and currently I am President of the Canadian registered charity, Seed Programs Canada, and a director of Seed Programs International.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) I have been a lifelong community volunteer. I have over 30 years as a Rotarian and more recently been involved with the Lombardy Agriculture Society and Neighbourhood Pitch In Week.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) I have been Chairperson of the Beautification Committee for South Elmsley Ward and have been instrumental in trying to keep it looking attractive with the flowers in the hamlet of Lombardy. I never hesitate to go to a problem site to talk to individuals and try to help them solve the situation. I try to be a good listener and present to Council on your behalf the needs and concerns of the individuals in the township.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I'm very involved in the community, I volunteer regularly as well attend many community events. My family and I have supported Delta Park and fair for many years.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I am currently President of the Big Rideau Lakes Association, Board member Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, Chair of the Catarauqui Trail Management Board, one of the promoters of the Rideau Lakes-Township Lake Networking Association, member of the Portland Community Hall Board, proponent of the Portland Lakeside Farmer's Market. I have also been known to take on Parks Canada over hours of operation and fees on the Rideau Canal. Then in my spare time I volunteer for numerous community based organization and events.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I am a very active volunteer in my community and have been for many years. I am a member of the Delta United Church and one of the Trustees and Administration Chair, I am Director for the Delta Mill Society, and the Delta Agricultural Society, that includes the Delta Fair and the Maple Syrup Festival, I am Chair of the Delta Beautification Committee plus I am in my 2nd term as community rep on the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board recently moving from Vice Chair to Chair. I have helped to organize and work at many community events working along old and young alike.

Question 3. What suggestions do you have to ensure dissemination of information on important issues, such as the recent toxic blue/algae notice from the Health Unit?

Ron Holman (Mayor) For general information we publish two booklets annually outlining Township and Community events. These publications are revenue neutral and very informative. Other initiatives that we take to get information to residents include:

- A website that is constantly updated, bringing Residents important information related to Township operations and posting of emergency information.
- Social media is utilized for postings of current information.
- Text-2 has recently been added to give visitors information on events and locations of businesses within our Township.

One recent direction to staff involved water quality issues in Portland. When notification was received of the issues, staff were directed, within hours, to go door-to-door with an information sheet which contained information from the responsible agencies.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) *The information highway will only grow with an open and transparent government. All information will be accessible on our website. Opportunities for local meetings or “town hall” meetings will be evaluated. Members of Council will be encouraged to make themselves available. We will work with our local newspapers to bring news and information forward on a regular basis.*

Don Wills (Mayor) *--facebook; twitter; township web site; news from Rideau Lakes section in the Westport Mirror and the EMC from Smith Falls as other townships have –example Drummond/North Elmsley and Beckwith Township.*

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) *All information should be open to public scrutiny with the exception of privacy issues. I would like to see a lot more commentary in the minutes so people know why people are voting a certain way or if there are people at the table that never ask a single question. I would have no issue with all recorded votes to be published on the webpage.*

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) *Strong connections should be built with community organizations to ensure information can be distributed quickly when necessary, especially for seasonal residents. Building adequate contact lists could be approached on a “joint venture” basis with the municipality if resources are lacking at the association level. Most importantly, a functioning infrastructure of stakeholders should be maintained to support and inform citizens in emergency situations when they arise.*

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) *The Township needs a revamped Web Site and should continue with its Calendar and newsletters. I also feel there is a place for quarterly Townhall Meetings where the Mayor and Ward politicians attend and a department head comes in and explains their role. It may also be important to hold a special meeting on major issues such as the recent toxic blue/green algae.*

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) *The newspaper has been a good medium for dissemination of information and our web site is continuously being brought up to date to keep the public informed. In issues and concerns that involve the different Ministries, I would hope that they would keep us informed so that we can pass information on to the public with the latest information.*

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) *I have asked the Township several times to be more informative with all issues. They feel that because information is entered into their minutes that they have done their job. I disagree. We all live busy lives and no one has time to read through weekly minutes to find information. They should start a newsletter or face book page that contains important information. Such as recorded votes, reasons for voting a certain way and that type of information. This should also contain issues such as the water issues in Portland and Westport. I think both Rideau Lakes TWP and the RVCA should have taken a more active role with the issue of Westport dumping sewage from the very start. I personally, after going to some meetings in Westport and listening to the Mayor would have cut off all services that we currently provide to them until we got some solid answers.*

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) *Having listened to the President of the Upper Rideau Lakes Association explain the difficulty in getting testing done for blue/green algae and the way in which the information was disseminated, there is a definite communications problem. Although information can be posted on a website, unless it's linked to other web sites and monitored the information doesn't get to those who need to know in a situation like this. I know that Tay Valley has a form of an “Emergency Contact” system and I would like to further pursue how that works. Also, I believe the Lake Associations through their web sites and facebook/twitter connections can play an important communications linkage, especially if they can develop “Road Champion” programs, whereby someone on a cottage road can be the link between the association and the residents of that road. Bringing in lake associations and other community interest groups as part of an information web further increases the ability of the Township to respond to emergency situations and open two-way communications, especially in times of an emergency.*

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) *I believe that even prior to the findings the CAO and Mayor have done a great job in making sure that the residents were made aware of the situation. Working with the MOE and the Health Unit to get the up to date information and sending it through as the findings were published. It was posted on the web site and other social media and also*

letters delivered door to door to the affected residents. The township covers a lot of area so perhaps in emergency situations the local radio stations could be notified to heed a warning; however it still wouldn't reach as many people as going door to door.

Question 4. What are your views on the current municipal planning policies concerning waterfront development?

Ron Holman (Mayor) With over 30 Lakes and 840 kilometres of shore line we have a responsibility to ensure our by-laws and policies protect our most valuable asset. We all must do what is necessary to do our part in ensuring the quality of our Lakes for today and tomorrow's generations.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) Our Official Plan deals with long-term benefits. I am sure we would all like to leave a legacy of clean lakes and healthy lands. As a waterfront resident, this is important to me in particular. As lakefront owners, we sometimes feel like we are being singled out when we approach the planning department. We all have the option to apply for a variance. That is what the Committee of Adjustment is there for. Each piece of property has its uniqueness and the options are there to have your case heard.

Don Wills (Mayor) I find that the planning section is too combative in nature. It is not in any way helpful with the residents that want to improve their property in the simplest of things, ie: step or veranda addition or in the case of a complete rebuild they are really restrictive. I have seen a development stalled for up to two years arguing about the conditions, ie—half basement, no basement, no porch even though the property owner says he will update a 1960's weeper bed to new and tear down his old cottage. The end result is a couple living full time in the township and contributing to it socially.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) They are too strict about the wrong things such as cottage development (building) the official plan says is causing environmental issues. People do not want to move their cottage back the 100 feet because they are too far from the water and looking at the back of every one's cottage. A house has very minimal impact on water. Let's give incentives like 10% more space for every 10 feet you move your septic past the 100 foot mark, and more incentives to stabilize shore line from erosion. 1/3 of phosphorous come from the air 1/3 from shore erosion and 1/3 from septic.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) Development policies should be applied in a way that preserves water quality and the riparian zone. For the most part adequate policies exist for new development however I would also support a series of lake capacity studies to determine how much, if any, further development can be accommodated before water quality is impacted. The Official Plan indicates that "all lakes can support further development", and this statement is not backed by studies or scientific facts.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) I am not yet fully aware of all of these policies, however you do need good development controls in place on the waterfront in order to protect our environment. Ones that are fairly and consistently applied using some common sense and flexibility.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) The municipal planning policies concerning waterfront development as far as I am concerned sometimes are a little strict, but we are governed by the rules and regulations of the ministries eg. RVCA and we have to adhere to their regulations.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I think they discourage development based on an old report that is full of conjecture and bad science that the RVCA always refers to. The size of a building does not harm the water. Instead of targeting the things that do cause water quality issues they are worried about how big a house is.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Municipal Planning policies are like the farmer trying to close the gate after all the cattle are out of the pasture. Many of the planning policies were introduced in the last 25 years, and cottages have been on the Rideau system for over 100 years. To try and impose "policy" as sometimes written can result in ridiculous situations. There are many people who would like to update their cottages but are being told that if you do, then the 30 meter setback applies. Others are being told that if you take down a residence then you have to take down the garage that's on the same lot (why? Policy?). I suggest there is need for a wider review of resident's desires to

blend with municipal professional planner's direction to overcome the issues voters have with the Township's planning department. If a wider review is undertaken then input should be sought from all interested parties (developers, builders, lake associations and residents) seeking specific complaints about the administration of planning policies and zoning provisions. On the other hand, planners need to be able to set out what is required by Act and Regulation and make clear what is set out only as a guideline so that both sides are more fully informed. Another concern that most people don't take into consideration is the Conservation Authorities. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, for example, can have a say up to 120 meters from lakes and streams. I believe in protecting the environment around our lakes and streams, but suggest we have to use more common sense. I don't believe in the broad-brush policy statements concerning development in our Township. To me we need to look at each individual request and assess whether it meets the owner's needs and protects the environment. I also suggest we need to ensure that Conservation Authority and Township requirements be more aligned.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Waterfront development policies are needed considering that water is one of the greatest gifts we have in this township. We need to consider the environment not only for ourselves but for the fish, animals and plants that also depend on it. A wise man once told me that rules and regulations were put into place because something went wrong that became a health and safety issue and with the sensitive environment around our rivers and lakes maybe even more so.

Question 5. The waterfront community is concerned about current restrictions imposed on them, how do you feel about the proposed "housekeeping" amendments?

Ron Holman (Mayor) I presume you mean by-law restrictions which are designed to protect our water bodies and I feel most residents are supportive of our, and other agencies, efforts to maintain this protection. It is in the best interest of the waterfront residents to do their part. Recently, as part of the ongoing process by conservation authorities, flood plains are being established. It is important that all residents take this in to consideration when buying, building or renovating their properties.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) The housekeeping amendments are really there to make the Official Plan easier for all to understand. By providing more input from ratepayers before the next Official Plan is updated would help Council in making decisions that would benefit us all.

Don Wills (Mayor) In my mind if the septic system is updated to new and the well is alright, a lot of these improvements should be grandfathered in. Most feeder roads developed in the 1960's to cottages were close to the lake shore resulting in cramped quarters. To do this now would require amendments to the bylaws concerning lake development that are now in place.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) My biggest issue with the proposed changes in the size limit going to 10% it should be changed to 15% and a basement completely surrounded by fill will now be included in those calculations. 10% more space for every 10 feet past the 100 foot mark for septic placement.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) While most of the proposed amendments appear designed to keep the zoning bylaw current and are reasonable, there are some amendments that I find unacceptable. Legally non-conforming residents should have a reasonable amount of freedom to improve their properties without resorting to a variance process. I believe the definition of "floor space" will lead to further restrictions and possibly an increased tax assessment value. Attics, unfinished basements, and boathouses should not be considered as "habitable floorspace" for the purpose of interpreting development guidelines.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) From what I have heard, these may not all be "housekeeping" in nature. If not there needs to be full disclosure and consultation prior to any amendments that impact waterfront lands.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) I feel that the proposed "housekeeping" amendments will be making things a little easier in some aspects. We are trying to use common sense as well as keeping within the bounds of Ministry regulations. Our first concern is the wellbeing of our constituents and of the environment.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) The Township of Rideau Lakes has the exclusive approval authority under the Ontario Planning Act for most building permit applications, with the exception of within the 100 year flood plain or slope stabilization. They have in the past however when denying some permits use the conservations authorities as a scapegoat. In my case and several others we were told that because the RVCA did not approve our permit the township could not because the conservation authorities have all the say. That is not true. As part of the consultation process the Township is required to provide notice to the Conservation Authority (your neighbours and other agencies and groups) that an application is under consideration. Under the Planning Act the Conservation Authority has NO approval powers. Only the Township does. They do, however, provide advice based on their "expertise" and what they think the needs of the watershed are. They do not have to take the advice of the conservation authorities. So any appeal of any conditions or requirements is to the Township (not the RVCA). Certain circumstances may transpire, however, where the Conservation Authority, if unheeded, may appeal a municipal decision on a planning matter the same way your neighbours can. All conditions placed on your permit or any denial of permit is 100 % up to Rideau Lakes. I disagree with many of the theories that the RVCA and others throw around that the size of a house effects our water quality. Phosphorus and Nutrients affect our water quality. Neither of these comes from a building they come from the air, bad septic systems, shore erosion and flooding. I would like to see a bonusing system for people that protect their property from the causes of poor water quality by letting them build bigger homes. I would have the official plan changed to promote environmentally responsible development.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) First the amendments are only to be "housekeeping" and the acting CAO has stated there will be further consultation before the changes are put into effect. One of the Lake Networking Association's concerns has been about floor space and how MPAC might change property values due to the definition in the proposed amendment. A second concern has been about dropping the reference to new construction after an involuntary event (ie. a fire). Progress has been made on the first concern, but there is still no recognition of the second concern. A major element of the "housekeeping" amendment, which should be recognized and appreciated, is the right to totally rebuild on an existing footprint would now be very clear when the amendment is passed. If an expansion is requested, then it would be up to the Committee of Adjustment, as per the Ontario Planning Act, to consider whether it is warranted. Again, open discussion with reasonable accommodation related to local needs, but within the mandated Provincial policies leading to an agreed upon set of planning documents and approaches, not an imposed directive.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) You would need to be more specific because I have not been on Council very long but from what I understood at the meeting of May 12th the policies as the "housekeeping" zoning bylaws had not been reviewed since 2006 so the Planning Department went through them to make them current. There are many Federal/Provincial rules and regulations that perhaps needed to be updated that the Township needs to also follow.

Question 6. What Municipal actions would you support to improve or protect lake water quality?

Ron Holman (Mayor) Most of this question has been answered under the previous questions. We must all do our part to protect water quality. I would be happy to work with all Lake Associations to implement steps and procedures that would protect water quality (see further on septic systems).

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) The Township has a responsibility to try and help our neighbours with such issues as the Westport lagoon. We have the authority and responsibility to make sure these situations are properly dealt with. Council can send strong worded letters to pressure M.O.E. After all, the Upper Rideau Lake is the highest lake in our system and what goes in there will affect all of us further down. Strong support for "State of the Lake" studies should be in place and amendments to our Official Plan added if warranted.

Don Wills (Mayor) The one thing the new administration HAS TO MAKE CLEAR is that no dumping of pollutants will be allowed by our Township into our lakes & streams. To do so by another municipality

or private business or landowner will be considered a criminal act. Having said that, the new administration will work hand in hand with Westport to secure funding for improvements to their sewage system provincially & federally.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) All of the above as well as any new ideas in order to protect the water. It is the only natural resource Rideau Lakes has and we cannot just count on the Conservation Authorities to protect it. The township needs to take an active role with the Conservation Authorities and Parks Canada in handling shore erosion and flooding.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) In addition to supporting lake capacity studies mentioned above, I also would like to see increased financial support (over existing levels) of the two Conservation Authorities for additional services as needed such as hydrologic studies, wetland assessment and habitat preservation. Also Lake Associations are usually addressing water quality as a priority and some municipal funding to associations could leverage the efforts of many passionate volunteers.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) The municipality must be an active partner with the two Conservation Authorities and the Health Unit. There are times when the BUCK gets passed between agencies and then the Township must show leadership as WATER QUALITY affects both health and recreation.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) I support the voluntary septic inspections that have been going on in the township regarding waterfront properties. I feel that the majority of waterfront residents are very concerned regarding the protection of the quality of lake water and adhere to the regulations that exist regarding this issue. The main action of the Municipality is to keep a watch eye and follow up on resident observations regard this issue.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I think the township needs to take on the issue of beaver management and flood control. I would also like to see the idea of having to pay to get a permit of shoreline stabilization dropped. This is a good thing we want people to do it. Finally I would say to every person that was willing to dig up their old septic and put in a new one further back than the current minimum (I think it is to close) we will let you build closer and bigger within reason.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) The water quality of our lakes and streams starts with our personal stewardship of those lakes and streams. I have stated in reply to questions from the EMC, that I believe in the next 10 –20 years the Township will be forced to look at the treatment of effluent, especially around the villages as a means of protecting drinking water. But as three of the larger villages in the Township are on lakes, it also serves to protect the lakes. How the future Council addresses both planning, storm water run off and septic systems, see suggestion in the last question, will have a major impact on lake water quality, as well as what our neighbouring village does, which already has a problem.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Actions against those dumping sewage or any type of waste into our lakes, or any body of water for that matter needs to be corrected so it never happens again. Whether through the Health Unit or the MOE something needs to be done so this never happens again. Making sure that all septic systems on the lakes and small communities are in good and proper working order and that they are not draining into the water/well systems.

Question 7. Given that 70% of tax revenue is derived from waterfront residents, what are you prepared to do in upcoming budgets to ensure that their concerns are addressed?

Ron Holman (Mayor) Your 70% figure is slightly off, the status today is:

- 47% of our properties are on the water
- 53% are in-land
- 56% of our taxes are received from waterfront residents
- 44% from inland properties

(It should be noted that for every dollar paid in property taxes, the Township's portion is approximately 35 cents with the balance going to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and education in the province of Ontario).

Many of our programs and procedures are designed to meet the needs of our waterfront residents. Some examples are:

-Improvement of our gravel roads to hard surface. In 2002 18 % of our roads were hard surfaces, today 58% are hard surfaced. Most of these roads serve cottage country. Conversion to hard surface creates a better and safer ride and operational savings.

- Our unique private road grant to encourage private road associations to improve roads for easier and safer access for ambulance, fire, township and private sector vehicles.

- Continue with our recycling and waste pick up to save each resident the time and cost of transferring their waste to a central location. One can imagine the cost of 6000 households, if all had to bring waste and recycling to one site. This would be damaging to the environment and our carbon footprint.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) All Lake Associations should present Council with their annual reports. Then, if there are concerns this will bring them up front to all the representatives of your Township to review and look for possible solutions. I will support open forum "Town Hall" meetings. These should be held on a regular basis as an informal chat to hear concerns of ratepayers, and they should take place in various locations.

Don Wills (Mayor) Due to the fact that the one thing that unites the township from Jones Falls to Smiths Falls is the Rideau River and its tributaries, we are dependent on the cottage assessment to fund our township expenditures. The one thing that I am hearing from the cottagers is that they are getting maxed out on their taxes they have to pay. Rideau Lakes can run its own show and I don't like hearing the comment we are the lowest taxation rate in the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville. I think that if all the cottage owners have a combined voice at a council committee their concerns could be addressed there before going to council for action.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) Getting people who live on waterfront property like myself on board with the idea that proper development (environmentally friendly) will give us more taxes to work with, without the answer now always being to just raising them.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) Waterfront residents have a voice through their lake associations and the Rideau Lakes Networking Group. Having their interests addressed through these groups, perhaps in a more formal way during the budget-setting process would be a start. I would support budget initiatives at Council that recognize the significance of the waterfront tax contribution.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) I feel that waterfront residents share most of the same concerns as all residents (good roads, waste and recycling, policing, fire, recreation). In order to understand waterfront owners priorities I would seek out Association input early on in the budget process. In my canvassing of the Ward I made sure to visit all properties with an emphasis on seasonal properties in July and August.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) At budget time we try to be fair to all of our taxpayers. I feel that we have been very fair in the past with door to door waste and recycling pickup and the private road grant program. Our fire and police protection is second to none. And we intend to continue all of these services, all the while keeping our tax rate at almost the lowest in the county. We have, and will listen to the concerns of our waterfront residents and try to do the best that we can to help them come to a satisfactory result.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I'm a waterfront property owner that pays a lot of taxes and I get very little services. I think that the township spending on some things is getting out of hand and unless we get them back in line our taxes will continue to go up at a more drastic rate especially when the new OPP costing is included.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) The Township currently receives only 35% of your tax dollar with 36% going to the County, so this is a really great question for Mayoralty candidates as to what we receive for those monies to the County. Municipal tax revenues go to Township roads, garbage, some communications, some recreation, and administration, all of which need to be reviewed. If elected, the best I could do in the upcoming budgets and throughout the term is listening to resident's concerns, take those concerns to the table and try and ensure all taxpayers receive value for their tax dollar. I would also warn all residents that because of the cuts in Provincial funding we are likely to see less actual construction.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I am a good listener and I am concerned about the residents in the township whether they live on the water or in our villages. Finding the root cause on an issue and then determining and taking the corrective action is one way to ensure that concerns are addressed.

Question 8. What is your opinion on the proposed OPP costing model?

Ron Holman (Mayor) Three years ago the Provincial Auditor General indicated the cost allocations of OPP services were not equal and fair across Ontario. In other words, the system was flawed. What is being proposed, in my mind, still has major flaws and will be very costly for many municipalities. As indicated by the Ministry in recent announcements approximately 105 Municipalities will see decreases and approximately 230 will see increases. Industrial/Commercial properties will now be counted as part of our property count as part of the allocation of costs. One major flaw is that multi-unit shopping centers or multi-unit apartment buildings owned by one person or company will be charged as one property. The same as a small corner store in other municipalities. This would be beneficial to the Municipalities with shopping centers and apartment buildings, but would penalize municipalities that do not have these structures. This is totally unacceptable. I have raised the issue with the Minister during the recent AMO conference and the latest correspondence from our MPP Steve Clark on September 5th is as follows, "I spoke to the Minister this morning and told him you were very concerned about the formula. Can we chat next week" I will not be letting this issue go away. I have many other concerns with the proposed formula, too many to list here, that I will be bringing forward. I stress my concerns are not with the quality of service we receive from the OPP, only the allocation of costs.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) The proposed OPP billing is a concern. The "calls for service fee" has not been determined to date. Service should be equal for all residents. Private roads should not be any exception. We are all paying the same rates.

Don Wills (Mayor) Due to the fact that all the definitions and their meaning is not out there yet I will reserve comment. Right now it doesn't look good for rural Ontario.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) I don't like it but there is very little we can do unless we consider going with another force. We need new revenue streams.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) While I support the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor to make the funding model simpler and clearer, this new formula penalizes rural municipalities, especially ones with a significant seasonal component, and I do not support it. Indications are that it will increase the tax load significantly in Rideau Lakes Township. OPP operational costs are going up much faster than the cost of living while crime rates across Ontario, including Rideau Lakes, are going down significantly. I believe that one model does not fit both urban and rural municipalities and the OPP should go back the drawing board.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) Municipalities have so little say over OPP costing. The model we are stuck with favors urban municipalities at our expense. The "good" news is that the increase is being phased in over 5 years.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) The OPP costing model is very confusing in a number of places. As chair of our Police Services Board I have been attending many seminars to try to understand the thinking and format of the new proposal. Unfortunately we, as a Board do not have a say in what is being proposed, but I have asked many questions about things that concern me in the formula. I am afraid that we will have to wait and see what the final outcome will be, but you can be assured that it will probably be costly. It is my intention to fight to retain the high standard of police protection in the township that we now enjoy.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I think we do not know enough about the model yet to make an educated assessment other than it is going to cost Rideau Lakes a lot more money. I also believe that we should get costing from other police services so that we have something to compare to like Ottawa or Kingston.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I am not impressed with the new OPP costing model. Quoting from the news release August 14th, 2014, "The model includes two components: base

policing costs such as crime prevention, proactive policing, officer training and administrative duties, and cost for reactive calls for service. Base policing costs will account for approximately 60 per cent of the bill, reactive calls will account for approximately 40 per cent.” The base costs are to be determined on a “household” basis, which is not well defined, and was the topic of discussion at a recent meeting between representatives of local municipalities. Your previous question was looking for value for your tax dollar, and after reading what is included in the base costs, I am certain you are asking where is the value for my money and feeling that you receive little benefit. Because this costing model is Province wide, we have to work with neighbouring municipalities in finding experts who can help us to challenge the formula, answer questions and ensure the local taxpayer is receiving dollar value, and that this is not just a further downloading from the Province.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I do not think it is fair or in the best interest of the rural communities especially when the cost includes each household and/or business within the township; whereas a large shopping complex would only be charged as 1 business even though it could have 50 businesses within it. I know that we need the support of the OPP but municipalities like ours will be paying more than our fair share while the larger centres will reap the benefit.

Question 9. Would you be willing to support the renaming of roads? Many roads have duplicate numbers and house addresses and the “letter number combination” for a street address is confusing for many companies to properly show addresses in computer systems. Does not always work well with GPS.

Ron Holman (Mayor) We are constantly renaming roads for the purposes of easier 911 identification. As I have indicated in the past, we are willing to work with residents and associations to identify problems and make changes. We need your co-operation.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) Many roads have duplicate numbers and house addresses and the “letter” “number combination” for a street address is confusing for many companies to properly show address in computer systems. Does not always work well with GPS. Civic addressing should be paramount. Getting proper addresses, we as a Township have the responsibility to step up to the plate and get this done. There are just too many variables to leave improper addresses to have safe emergency responses.

Don Wills (Mayor) As I have stated we are dealing with a pre amalgamation problem inherited from the separate townships. It needs to be overhauled in line with what Lanark County did.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) We are doing that now by addressing the duplicate numbers. After that is done then we can move onto the other roads, please keep in mind that people have to accept this who are landowners of those properties.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) Yes, the municipality has to take the lead on this and eliminate the duplications of private road numbering immediately. Secondly, review the road numbering system in general to determine if there is a better system to ensure clarity and safety.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) Yes. The current system is very confusing but I would like to hear the rationale for them. Our BLUE emergency signs are also a mess as they were voluntary. They should have been provided for free with the understanding that they must be kept in place.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) The numbering and renaming of roads have been a great concern for many years. We have been waiting to see what the County is proposing for the 911 numbering so that we would not overlap and have to change again. The changing of names can be very costly, confusing and sometimes even unruly with people not being able to agree. I am in favour of trying to rectify the situation in whatever manner we can. It certainly is not a forgotten issue and sooner than later I hope to see it rectified.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I have no issue changing the road names, as I think the naming convention from the beginning was flawed. I live on O10 and people can never find it because they do not know if it is a zero or O. The only issue I would have is that the people on the road would have to agree on the name.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) It is my understanding that this question is based on concern in the Otter Lake area of road naming/numbering on the East and West side of the lake and concern about emergency vehicles going to the wrong area and losing valuable time in an emergency situation. Under these circumstances, I can easily appreciate the need and support this action.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Yes I would. We have many roads in the village of Delta where I live called UB5 or LB1 and I think they should all be properly named. I do not know the process but willing to find out as it is a health and safety concern should there be an emergency and the police or ambulance can't find the proper road.

Question 10. Would you be willing to explore having the municipality add recognized road associations to their insurance policy?

Ron Holman (Mayor) While I always keep an open mind on possibilities that benefit our residents, I would doubt that this would be of benefit to them. Trying to insure something the Township does not own or control would be unlikely, and if possible would be very expensive. Insurers must know that we own and control what we insure.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) There are too many private roads in our Township that do not meet minimal Municipal standards to add them to our insurance. If we were to insure one, then we would have to insure them all. Many of us enjoy the privacy of our properties and appreciate no government involvement on our roads.

Don Wills (Mayor) Insurance on private road associations is not my speciality but I think without investigation the cost would be prohibitive.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) I do not think that would be possible and would be very costly. I would think the only way to do that would be through ownership. These roads would have to meet our minimum widths and only a few do.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) Private road operators undertake considerable expense to maintain and insure their roads for the safety of owners, visitors and municipal vehicles. If adding road associations to the municipal policy is feasible and cost-effective, I agree that it should be explored.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) Yes, but I could not support municipal liability for private roads.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) This is something that I have not thought about. I don't know that it would be a good policy for the township to adopt. Legally I'm thinking that it could only fall under our insurance if we owned it, and we certainly are not in a position physically or financially to take over all of the private roads. In short I probably wouldn't want to go there.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I think that as more people become year-round residents that this is something that should be looked at as well as road work. If we want people to move here we need to make it more appealing to get to their homes.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I would be willing to explore having the municipality add recognized road associations to their insurance policy. I understand that not all road associations carry insurance and from a cost point of view may not want to have insurance. It was suggested that much of the amount of municipal grants for private roads was being used to purchase insurance and the hope was that if added to the municipal insurance policy road Association's insurance cost would be lower. Under the section on "Taxes" you asked, "What are you prepared to do in upcoming budgets to ensure their concerns are addressed". One of those items would be to meet with representatives from the recognized road associations and listen to their concerns and how the "private road grant program" could best serve them and the taxpayers they serve.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I understand that the township is not responsible for private roads but in this year's budget the road associations were granted some funding to help with maintenance so I am not sure if that would cover insurance or not.

Question 11. Would you support mandatory inspection of septic systems, at time of sale and every five years?

Ron Holman (Mayor) During my years as Reeve and Mayor, I have suggested to the responsible agencies that “septic permits” should be “septic licences” and required renewal (and inspection) on a given time frame. This recommendation has never been implemented by the Province. In the past I have asked lake associations of their recommendations regarding compulsory versus voluntary inspections and would look forward to further discussions as to their recommendations. This is extremely important in view of the blue/green algae and other environmental issues. At the “time of sale” I feel all who purchase should stipulate in their buy-sale agreement a mandatory septic inspection.

Rob Dunfield (Mayor) I would fully support a mandatory septic inspection program done on a rotating basis throughout the Township, not only for lake front owners to prevent phosphorus loading, but also for our small Villages and Hamlets where wells are so close together. We certainly don't want to burden our taxpayers with another policing issue on septic's but we should have the responsibility to ensure properly monitored sewage systems.

Don Wills (Mayor) At time of sale should be the home owners or buyer's responsibility. Mandatory inspection should be at least every 15 years 20 years - maximum.

Jeff Banks (Council, South Elmsley) Letting people develop many of the old properties and moving the septic's away from the water would be a great start in addressing this issue. As stated at a recent CRCA meeting staff feel that the quality of our lakes is STEADILLY improving, so why the need. If we are going in the right direction it would only make sense to speed it up by allowing more and better development of the older cottages and outdated septic's.

Karl Fiander (Council, South Elmsley) I support mandatory septic inspection every 5 years and at the time of the property sale. Creative ways to handle this issue have been addressed in other municipalities that render the process relatively painless to the homeowner. Partial inspection data in Rideau Lakes indicate a full or partial septic failure rate in excess of 25% exists which is consistent with other municipalities. This rate is too high to ensure adequate protection of surface and ground water.

Arie Hoogenboom (Council, South Elmsley) I would support mandatory inspection at time of sale but not every five years. A new system property maintained should last 25 plus years. There may be a need to have an initial round of mandatory inspections but I would want to survey seasonal owners on this issue.

Paul Smith (Council, South Elmsley) I don't feel that a five year inspection plan would need to be in place in most cases. I do support mandatory inspection at the time of sale for the protection of both the buyer and seller.

Paula Banks (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) I agree with mandatory septic inspections, I do however think that 5 years is excessive and it should be based on the results of the first assessment, but time of sale 100%. I also think that we should be pushing the province for funding for people that are unable financially to replace their systems. For many older people on fixed incomes this could mean the difference in staying or selling a place. Getting rid of bad system benefits everyone and the province should be making funds available for the people that cannot afford it under the Clean Water Act.

Doug Good (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Septic inspection at time of sale I don't have problems with, however, a mandatory inspection every five years doesn't make sense. I can see a septic inspection once in ten years the first time, then depending on the type of septic unit, when it was installed and the number of people in the residence, that unit may not need an inspection until it is twenty years old. I've had feedback regarding this question asking: who would pay for the mandatory inspection and if something is wrong does the resident have the opportunity to voluntarily fix the problem or must they get a permit and do it within a fixed time frame? When you go through the voters list for Ward One, for example, a large number of voters are non-resident living in cities that have water and sewer systems. What I would like to see is a program informing these people and others on the care and maintenance of their septic systems, which I feel will have a direct impact back to your question on Water Quality, stewardship of our lakes and streams which begins with each one of us.

Kathy Livingston (Council, Bastard & South Burgess) Yes I would not only along the waterfront properties but in the small communities. I believe that currently septic inspections are a requirement for the owner to have done prior to closing the sale of a house.

As a postscript, the results of the election were as follows:-

Ron Holman was re-elected as Mayor.

Jeff Banks and Arie Hoogenboom were elected to Council in South Elmsley.

Doug Good and Kathy Livingston were elected in Bastard and South Burgess.

Now we need to keep a watchful eye to see if all these individuals keep their pre-election promises!

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