

News & Views 2010

ELECTION UPDATE

www.shadowlakes.on.ca

Welcome To Our Second Election Edition

As reported in our recent Summer Update, the Shadow Lakes Association has realized the importance of informing the membership about the significance of the upcoming municipal elections. We have decided to provide a forum for you the voter to learn more about the candidates and their views. We posed six questions of concern to us. The candidates were asked for a response of up to one hundred twenty words to each question. The responses were not edited or corrected.

Our Email to Candidates for Election

“Attached to this message are 6 questions that the members of the Shadow Lakes Association are submitting to you for the purpose of understanding your position on the subjects referenced.

Would you please submit your answers to these questions by return e-mail no later than September 24th, 2010? The Shadow Lakes Association will in turn be sending a special election newsletter to the owners of the 600+ properties on our mailing list containing the questions and your responses.

Your response should be limited to a maximum of 120 words in total. All responses will be published exactly as received and will not be edited.

Our mailing will be posted such that each voter household will receive the newsletter on or close to the day before they receive their mail-in ballot form.

Our goal is to ensure that our members are well informed when they cast their ballots and I trust you will view this request as an excellent opportunity to communicate insight to the basis on which you would represent the residents of Shadow Lake if elected.

We look forward to receiving your responses”

Best Regards

*Phil Taylor
President
Shadow Lakes Association*

The First Question

If elected how will you address planning issues such as quarry and trailer park licensing, and waterfront redevelopment projects, in the Kawartha Lakes area in general and the Shadow Lakes area in particular?

Lynne Boldt— Candidate for Mayor

The key components to ANY development in this Municipality should first and foremost be the local ratepayers. It is imperative that local representation is heard and heeded when proposals come forward. Yes, our Municipality needs growth - but it needs RESPONSIBLE growth. If quarries, trailer parks and redevelopment projects are to be undertaken they must only occur in areas that can accommodate AND sustain them. Despite any number of studies by outsider, no "ifs" "buts" or "maybes" can erase personal experience. Remember the old adage - knowledge is power.

Andy Letham— Candidate for Mayor

As we are now the City of Kawartha Lakes, the goal must be to address these issues consistently throughout the municipality. They must conform to the Provincial Policy Statement and now that we have an official plan, we must

Shadow Lakes Association Inc. Annual Family Membership

2010 MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$20.00
2010 & 2011 MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$40.00
2009 LATE MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$20.00

Name: _____ Home Phone:(_____) _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Local Phone:(705) _____ Road: _____ Green 911#: _____

Email Address (please print legibly): _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: SHADOW LAKES ASSOCIATION INC.

Mail to: Mark Allan, Treasurer, SLA, 73 Shadow Lake Rd 14, Coboconk K0M1K0,

or, drop off in the Association box at Souter's Variety Store in Coboconk. Thank you for your support!

**SLA Inc.
Receipt for
2010 Dues**

A payment of

\$ _____

made on date

_____/_____/____

(Clip this stub as
a reminder of
your payment)

create by-laws within the plan to address these issues. Great consideration should be given to each planning issue individually as they come forward and then the concerns can be addressed at the pre-consultation meetings. Create good by-laws and then look at opportunity for responsible growth.

Ric McGee – *Candidate for Mayor*

This Council adopted the new Official Plan (land use vision) after 28 years of review by more than 9 different Councils. This Plan was created in consultation with waterfront associations, including the SLA to improve land use around our waterways. The SLA lobbied to limit the number of trailer parks on the Shadow Lake system to two. Current Provincial Policy discourages intensification (trailer parks) on our waterways to protect water quality. The Official Plan also commits to the development of a Secondary Official Plan to manage aggregate production that will identify where, when and how aggregate will be produced in Kawartha Lakes. This will be a public and consultative process including all residents in Kawartha Lakes. Protect our lake!

Rob Macklem– *Candidate for Council*

Economic growth is essential, without it we will face significant tax increases!
Each development must be evaluated individually for appropriate location, environment & economic impact!
Provincial education, ambulance, water and through Highway costs DO NOT belong at the Municipal level unless fully funded by Provincial Taxes!
We must CONVINCe the Province to relate municipal taxation and service costs directly and solely to the services Property owners receive or benefit from. In addition, the Province must FULLY fund services such as social welfare, we deliver on their behalf.

Emmett Yeo – *Candidate for Council*

Council just passed the new Official Plan which designates waterfront for development through infilling, any newly created lots will be subject to a 100' setback. This is a better form of waterfront development than intensification, such as Trailer Parks, which are frowned upon through the Provincial Policy Statement. The new Council will be saddled with the

responsibility of coming up with a Secondary Official Plan for the management of Pits and Quarries, this will give us, as a Municipality, more say in where these are located. I look forward to being part of that decision making.

The Second Question

It is a known fact that in the City of Kawartha Lakes property assessments for waterfront properties have risen faster and continue to rise faster than assessments for property owners not on water. At the same time waterfront property owners consume less municipal services than their fellow citizens not located on water. As a result waterfront property owners bear an increasingly larger percentage of the overall tax burden for a disproportionately lower value of services consumed.

In urbanized areas of the municipality the City uses an area rating system to adjust taxes upward where affected property owners have the benefit of street lights, sewers, sidewalks etc. Moreover, the City applies one third the base mill rate to its farm properties compared to its residential properties.

If elected, would you support the principle of applying a downward area rating to waterfront properties that would reduce the tax burden on waterfront property owners proportionate to the level of services consumed?

Lynne Boldt– *Candidate for Mayor*

Amalgamation created a huge, expensive bureaucracy. More tax dollars spent on administration and such that forms larger government. Assessments for a single tier emphasize unfair tax shifts and removes options for local government to adjust mil rates, thereby reducing tax rates. The Ontario Ombudsman has agreed that the MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) is not without flaws, and while the single tiered City remains somewhat locked into this process, they have utilized it to its full extent as a needed cash cow. Local taxpayers must rally against MPAC and the Municipality to demand ways that area rating be restored. Returning power to smaller, local Municipalities in a two-tier structure can ensure the purest form of area rating by providing only *Response cut off at 120 words*



Shadow Lakes Association Inc.

Extreme Water Level Alert

I am a member of the Shadow Lakes Association and would like to be notified, if you can, at the e-mail address below in case of extreme high water occurring on the Shadow Lakes System.

I understand that this is a volunteer courtesy service for members only and that there is no extra charge involved. I acknowledge that the association provides the information gratuitously and without any warranty or representation as to the accuracy and timeliness of the information. As a condition of receiving the information I agree not to seek any remedy whatsoever from the Association, any members or officers of the Association or against anyone who may seek such remedy against the Association, its members or officers.

Name: _____

Email address _____

Green 911#: _____ Signature _____

Andy Letham— *Candidate for Mayor*

Seasonal properties are identified within the residential property class and they must be taxed at the residential tax rate. You cannot have a different tax rate for seasonal residents. What could be looked at is increasing the number of area rates for different services. There then becomes the potential that certain properties be subject to different levels of taxation based on the services provided, or different levels of services. I would certainly have no problem looking at this, but I strongly feel the better route to go is through MPAC and finding a better way to assess waterfront properties. As a waterfront property owner myself, I agree with your concerns.

Ric McGee— *Candidate for Mayor*

Yes, if only it were possible. This practice is not permitted by Ontario Law. Therefore, it is illegal to apply a downward area rating to waterfront properties. If this were possible, I would have brought it forward seven years ago to address the inequity of Current Value Assessment. As we have discussed over the years, CVA is the problem and until the Province finds a new system, we will continue to be unfairly taxed. We must work together to lobby our Provincial government for a fair property tax system. On a 100 acre farm, 100% residential tax is paid on the farmhouse and one acre. The remaining 99 acres is taxed at 25% of the assessed value.

Rob Macklem— *Candidate for Council*

What varies is the Market Value assessment. Area rating was used to adjust for different service levels after amalgamation. An equal MVA & class should generate the same taxes wherever the property is in CKL. With provincially mandated assessment by MPAC, taxes are not representative of services.

Emmett Yeo — *Candidate for Council*

I would support that if it were possible, but I don't believe it is. I believe the problem is the assessment method used by the Province, who also dictate the formula used in figuring our Mill Rate. I will continue to support all waterfront owners across the entire City to lobby the Province to switch to an assessment system that is fair to all.

The Third Question

Considering that a large percentage of the seasonal property owners in the City of Kawartha Lakes are absent in the fall when municipal elections are normally held, if elected, are you committed to the continued use of mail in ballots and/or on-line voting in future elections?

Lynne Boldt— *Candidate for Mayor*

In general I am not opposed to mail-in ballots, but I am definitely not in favour of the way this Municipality has utilized them. All taxpayers deserve a say in how their area is governed, but the "process" with which this system has been

implemented leaves far too many issues that still require attention. Incomplete and/or inaccurate Voters' Lists, questionable security of ballots and the costly (to taxpayers) court case, just to ensure ballots were even counted due to voter error or misunderstanding are but a few issues. Discussions with Seasonal residents and elected officials far before election day to find an affordable and manageable system is needed. Perhaps Proxy votes and Advance Polls (done Provincially and Federally) would still *Response cut off at 120 words*

Andy Letham— *Candidate for Mayor*

I am quite comfortable with the use of mail in ballots and/or on line voting in future elections. As taxpayers in this municipality, seasonal residents should be given every opportunity to contribute to the process.

Ric McGee— *Candidate for Mayor*

Yes. I have always supported alternative voting methods so that part-time and seasonal property owners have the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote for their Mayor and Councillor. I am committed to this in the future.

Rob Macklem— *Candidate for Council*

Yes, all taxpayers should have their voice be heard!

Emmett Yeo — *Candidate for Council*

Absolutely, that is what I supported this election.

The Fourth Question

The Gull River flow rate at the Norland dam needs to be maintained between 10 and 30 cubic metres/sec. from Victoria Day weekend to Thanksgiving, in order to maintain an acceptable water level within the Shadow Lakes system. The Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) managers seem to have limited predictive tools to help them stay within this band while still being reasonably assured that they will not run out of water to feed the canal or drain the northern reservoir lakes too early in the season.

While we recognize this is primarily a federal issue, if elected what would you do to help us to ensure that they take steps to maintain the above flow range?

Lynne Boldt— *Candidate for Mayor*

As you've mentioned, this truly does fall under Federal legislation, but that being said, cooperating between local ratepayers, the Trent Severn Waterway, local employees and local elected officials can still work together to ensure necessary levels can be met and/or maintained. If the TSW is not being supplied with appropriate tools to perform their jobs effectively, then perhaps the local residents can find out how

they can assist TSW workers in obtaining such required equipment. Communication and cooperation are key.

Andy Letham— *Candidate for Mayor*

I will work with staff to make sure the municipality stays on top of this concern and continues to work with the Trent Severn Waterway managers for the best interest of our residents.

Ric McGee— *Candidate for Mayor*

Councillor Yeo and I have worked together with your SLA Executive to resolve this issue. We have written letters and met with the Federal Minister and MP to raise our concerns, met with the SLA Executive and TSW staff to establish working relationships, lobbied for the appointment of Ian Forster- Vice President of the SLA to the newly created TSW Water Management Advisory Council, requested the installation of a water level gauge below the Norland Dam and passed motions at Council to advocate for the SLA. As your Mayor, I have dealt with this issue strategically and in your best interest. We will continue to be diligent and stand together to resolve this issue once and for all.

Rob Macklem— *Candidate for Council*

As Parks Canada is in control, this is a federal issue. With an aging system & nature's many variables, I'd suggest encouraging support for Voices of TSW' lobby for backing to consistently maintain the system. Democracy works, with enough voices, it can get the attention it deserves!

Emmett Yeo — *Candidate for Council*

Tough question for an even tougher issue. The SLA Directors have been doing a remarkable job dealing with this issue since I have been involved with them, you should be proud of them. I will continue to work with them along with Mayor McGee to ensure the level of recognition of our unique situation is not lost on the Feds. This is definitely one of those issues that has to be on the front burner at all times, even when the water levels are good, we all know how fast that can change. We have met with the MP, the new TSW superintendent and most levels of management, we managed to get one of your Directors on the Advisory Panel for the TSW, and recently have a commitment for a new flow rate monitor on the Lake. We simply must keep on pushing and communicating.

The Fifth Question

In our election issue four years ago we put forward a question expressing our concerns about water quality in the Shadow Lakes system. We still have those concerns about water quality but now more so because testing reveals there are more fecal bacteria levels than we expected in our lakes and rivers. Our association executive believes there are two factors adding to this problem. One is poorly maintained and

defective septic systems and the other is nuisance waterfowl feces.

If elected what are your plans to identify and bring defective septic systems up to acceptable standards? What will you do to reduce waterfowl pollution?

Lynne Boldt— *Candidate for Mayor*

Again, teamwork is critical. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing implemented suggestions for Septic Tank reinspections. In addition, The Ontario Building Code, local Health Units and some local Conservation Authorities are all available resources that can be utilized. Groups such as KPOW or WRAFT are excellent liaisons between ratepayers and the various levels of Government. However, it is ultimately the property owner that bears the responsibility for proper maintenance and upkeep of their septic system. Property owners need to be aware of the impact that their actions or inactions could have on the environment, themselves and others health. It is my belief that for the most part, property owners are responsible owners and will work towards the greater good *Response cut off at 120 words*

Andy Letham— *Candidate for Mayor*

Our lakes and rivers are what make us who we are. Their quality must never be taken for granted. Poorly maintained and defective septic systems are something we have talked about for a long time and done nothing about. It is time to put a plan in place for inspection and replacement if necessary. We must not wait for the inevitable. I am committed to working with our lakefront property owners, conservation authorities and staff to coming up with a system that works for everyone. Waterfowl having been using these lakes a lot longer than we have, so I think we should sort out our problems first.

Ric McGee— *Candidate for Mayor*

We must initiate Lake Management Plans to determine the factors impacting our lakes and develop action plans to improve water quality. The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan is complete (http://www.kawarthaconservation.com/lsemp/study_results.html) and the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan has started. Council is lobbying the Federal and Provincial government for tax credits to entice property owners to upgrade septic systems. Council is looking at ways to assist property owners with loan programs to be repaid through your tax bill at reasonable rates. Waterfowl is problematic and to address this, the Source Water Protection Committee is attempting to have Canada Geese declared a threat to our source water. If successful, this will permit steps to be taken to address the waterfowl problem.

Rob Macklem— *Candidate for Council*

It will always be a concern! I grew up as a cottager at Head Lake. We have no jurisdiction over feeder lakes, wildlife conservation policies or new & replacement septic systems. Municipally setting guidelines & penalties would still rely on

responsible property ownership to ensure systems are not used over designed capacity & maintained!

Emmett Yeo – Candidate for Council

Councillor Villemaire and I moved a motion asking the Province and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to come up with a loan program for people to upgrade defective septic systems, the numbers were too staggering for us to offer such an incentive and it has to come from above. With Source Water Protection coming down the pipe this could become a reality as well as help to deal with other “threats” such as Commercial properties, road salt run-off and , if they are determined to be a threat to our water, Geese. Let’s hope! The first line of defence for the lakes are you as the waterfront owners, you must be diligent about not dumping yard waste in the *Response cut off at 120 words*

The Sixth Question

There is a perception in the City of Kawartha Lakes that the larger urban areas are benefiting more in terms of Councils attention, capital expenditures and programs when compared to the rural and cottage areas of the City. The majority of waterfront property owners are located in these areas and since they pay the largest proportion of taxes collected by the City, how do you propose to correct this situation and make sure that the services, capital expenditures and program delivery reflects the important part that the rural and waterfront areas play within the City.

Lynne Boldt– Candidate for Mayor

Previous Councils had smaller budgets, allocated to individual areas. Issues were prioritized in areas and were easier to identify. Sharing of services between municipalities allowed for streamlining expenses, allowing more projects to be completed in less time at less expense. One elected representative of 16 means you have 1/16th the input and 1/16th the chance of having your project at the top of the list. Right or wrong, it is perceived that Lindsay has 1/4 of those seats. You use to have 5 voices within your own area. It is my belief that given the geographic size of this area, combined with the needs of rural, urban, seasonal, permanent, business and industry -- it is not a case of the *Response cut off at 120 words*

Andy Letham– Candidate for Mayor

In a perfect world, as one single city, these services, capital expenditures, and programs should be delivered where they are needed the most. This does not always happen. Our waterfront and rural areas play a major role in our city, and they can’t be left out. Although development and the costs associated with it usually occur in the urban areas, the increase in the tax base benefits us all. Sometimes that investment makes more sense city wide from a payback point of view. That being said, we will help make it work for everyone. Inspection of the above septic systems is one area that comes to mind along with many of our roads. Leadership can make a big difference.

Ric McGee– Candidate for Mayor

Urban areas have more funds available to upgrade infrastructure through development charges, utility charges and taxes. Looking at infrastructure upgrades in rural Kawartha Lakes, it is harder to see the total financial impact in 3,000 square kilometres (rural) compared to 10 square kilometres. (urban) Over \$9 million dollars has been spent on the highway from Kinmount to Sebright. A new \$10 million dollar arena is being built in Fenelon Falls for the people in the north. Reality is that, your local municipality receives 8 cents of every Canadian tax dollar and we maintain 80% of Canada’s infrastructure. We need more money from the Federal and Provincial Government, not from your pocket! Let’s work together. **RE-ELECT RIC MCGEE** as your Mayor!

Rob Macklem– Candidate for Council

As with development, programs & services should be economically viable and purpose located fairly throughout CKL. We must balance the diverse needs of this city, in particular the budget!

Emmett Yeo – Candidate for Council

Perception is a strange thing. The largest Capital Project in my four years as Councillor is a toss up between getting hwy 45 completed at a cost of over 9 million dollars and the new Fenelon Arena at 10 million dollars. Unfortunately the expansion to Ward Park in Norland did not receive the 1.5 million grant through the RINC funding but Council saw fit to make it one of the top two priorities when applying for the grant out of the entire City. Do we get everything the urban areas get? No way, but we’ll keep making sure we get our fair share, and believe me that’s one of the toughest parts of this job. It’s like a mother bird *Response cut off at 120 words*

Important Dates To Remember

Mailing out of voter kits	October 1, 2010
Kits to be mailed back by	by October 15, 2010
Kits may be hand delivered	by October 22, 2010
Election Day	October 25, 2010

Important

Your complete mail-in kit may be hand delivered on Election Day to the Victoria Park Armoury in Lindsay or the Senior's Club in Fenelon Falls.

The mail-in voter kit is your only ballot. There are no traditional voting stations. If you choose to vote on Election Day, you must bring the complete mail-in voter kit with you to the Victoria Park Armoury or the Senior's Club in Fenelon Falls.

Accessibility

An assistive ballot marker device for those with special needs will be available at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. October 4th through to Election Day, October 25th.

Advance and Proxy Votes

As the City of Kawartha Lakes is using mail-in voter kits, there will be no advance voting dates or proxy voting.

What Is Your Voter Kit?

A mail-in voter kit includes the following

1. Ballot
2. Voting Instructions
3. Voter declaration form
4. Secrecy envelope (yellow)
5. Postage-paid reply envelope (white)

Ballots have been prepared for counting on electronic equipment and should not be folded in any manner other than as originally creased and as instructed below.

Completing Your Ballot

1. Use a pen with black ink to mark your ballot
2. Do not write anything else on the ballot, or secrecy (yellow) envelope
3. Place the completed ballot in the secrecy envelope, nothing else, and seal it.
4. Sign the Voter Declaration form and detach it from the instructions.
5. Place the sealed secrecy envelope and the signed voter declaration form into the white return envelope. (Only one secrecy envelope per reply envelope).
6. Mail in the return envelope by October 15, 2010 or hand deliver, during normal business hours to any of the Municipal Service Centres or City Hall by October 22, 2010. On Election day October 25th, only the Lindsay Park Armoury and Fenelon Falls Senior's Centre will accept hand delivered completed mail-in voter kits.

If You Choose Not To Vote

It is your right to vote if qualified. If you do not want to exercise your right you should destroy your ballot by shredding it. This will ensure no one else can take away your vote or to vote on your behalf.

If you do not receive a mail-in voter kit by October 8, 2010 please contact;

Municipal Election Office
26 Francis St.
Lindsay, Ont.

705-324-9411 x1255 or 1262
1-888-822-2225 x1255 or 1262

Let your voice be heard – VOTE

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