

Responses to CEWF Questions from Candidates in Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

Municipality	Ward/Office	Candidate	Acclaimed?	Response?
Havelock-Belmont-	Mayor	Ronald Gerow	✓	September 17, 2014
Methuen	Deputy Mayor	Jim Martin		
	Deputy Mayor	Andy Sharpe		
	Village Ward	Jonathan Prosser		
	Village Ward	Barry Pomeroy		not able to contact
	Village Ward	Julie S. Zufelt		
	Village Ward	Kathy Clement		
	At Large	Phil Higgins		
	At Large	Joe McGowan		
	At Large	Dianana Ashford		not able to contact
	At Large	Hart Webb		September 16, 2014
	Township Ward	Larry Ellis		
	Township Ward	David Gerow		
	Township Ward	Pascal Hill		not able to contact

Note: Responses below are provided in the sequence received by CEWF

Responses from Hart Webb
Candidate for Counsellor – At Large, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

I think that it is crucial that municipalities play a role in the management of the Trent River Watershed. My family has had a cottage on Belmont Lake for over 60 years so I understand the need for improvements in managing our lakes and rivers. In the past 10 years, we have had a couple of instances where water levels in the Crowe river became so low that some cottagers could not get their boats out to the lake, while lakes above us and below us on the system were at normal levels. I pledge to work with existing agencies to provide more consistency in regard to water levels and water quality in the Trent River Watershed.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

Whenever possible, I feel that it is best that local people govern themselves. They are the ones who are most familiar with the specific problems they face, and usually have the best solutions to these problems. However, I am open to the idea of contracting existing Conservation Authorities to areas that don't currently have a CA - provide the constituents of that region are in agreement.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I believe that any/all water management studies should be examined closely by both municipal governments and local lake associations. I am hesitant to support a "constraint" based model until we know exactly what these constraints will be and what is the ultimate goal of the water management model. I believe these issues should be explained fully to our constituents so that we can receive the proper feedback.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

Of course I would urge Parks Canada to release all information concerning dam safety reviews as well as any other studies that they have completed in regard to the Watershed. The public should have access to any/all of this information as this will help everyone make a more informed decision on this matter. In terms of dam repairs, I support any initiative to help improve or maintain the existing infrastructure to further preserve the beauty and continuity of our vital resource.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

In order to raise awareness for Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to better communicate other water management issues we need to continue to work with local lake associations to promote these new initiatives through their regular meetings or in their newsletters. Also it would be helpful if the municipalities could promote these initiatives through local advertising in their communities (paper, radio, TV).

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

I feel that maintaining strong lines of communication between municipal governments and local lake associations is crucial to aiding the facilitation of improvements to our water management structures and operation of these facilities. I believe strongly that these issues should be dealt with locally, with minimal interference from higher agencies (prov./fed. gov't). I am not intimately familiar with some of the examples on your list, however I will look into these individual cases and hopefully the next time we speak I will have more input for you. I will say that I am a cottage owner on this system (Belmont Lake) so I can sympathize with the ongoing efforts to maintain this resource.

Responses from Ron Gerow
Candidate for Mayor, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen

1. Do you agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector of the Trent River watershed? If so what is your personal commitment in this regard?

Q1 response:

I believe municipalities across the province should work with all water agencies to ensure our water resources are managed and cared for in a responsible fashion. I will agree to working with the Trent system folks to work on all issues of concern in my jurisdiction.

2. Do you agree that, rather than seeking the establishment of Conservation Authorities in those areas currently lacking a CA, there is merit in municipalities contracting the existing CAs to provide specific expertise and services such as low water response planning or flood plain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

Q2 response:

I believe our conservation folks have the ability to provide expertise on flood control and low water response planning how ever the financial and people resources of our conservation authorities are stretched to the max. This would mean extra resources would be needed.

3. Do you support the key recommendation of the AECOM Water Management Study that the TSW adopt a constraint-based water management model capable of considering lake specific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

Q3 response:

I am not aware enough on this to comment.

4. Will you urge Parks Canada to release dam safety reviews as they are completed and urge the federal government ensure public safety by immediately investing in dam repairs and maintenance so as to remove the deferred maintenance deficit and bring the dam infrastructure up to at least a 'good' or 'fair' state of repair?

Q4 response

YES I believe the feds have an obligation to release all reports to the public and to follow up on there responsibilities to up grade and or repair all structures to modern standards.

5. Actions have been taken by Haliburton County and some of its municipalities to improve communications during flood events. What further actions are needed – for example to raise awareness of municipal Flood Emergency Preparedness Plans and to communicate other water management issues such as during times of low water?

Q5 response:

Really doesn't apply to us as we are not in Haliburton County.

6. Do you agree that municipal government should work with local lake associations to facilitate improvements to water management operations and structures on reservoir and flow-through lakes as exemplified by the following list:

Q6 response:

Yes. The issue on Jack's Lake with the ATV Situation has not been brought to my attention in the past but would like feed back from the Lk Association on this for further discussion.

Thanks for the opportunity to answer these important Questions