

Responses to CEWF Questions from Candidates in Highlands East

Municipality	Ward/Office	Candidate	Acclaimed?	Response?
Highlands East	Reeve	Dave Burton		
	Reeve	Steve Consentino		September 17, 2014
	1	Steven Kauffeldt		
	1	Cam McKenzie		
	2	Suzanne Partridge		
	2	Adam Szelei		September 18, 2014
	3	Cecil Ryall		
	3	Donna Graham		
	4	Joan Barton		
	4	Todd Bertram		

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

Responses from Steve Consentino
Candidate for Reeve, Highlands East

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 that municipalities have a vested interest as stakeholders. My commitment as candidate and as a cottager would be to work with the CEWF to achieve a better understanding of the issues and to learn what role there would or could be for the municipality to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton sector.

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:

That sounds like an excellent idea on paper. The problem from my perspective, as a taxpayer and cottager is that the municipalities are being squeezed already by the province with respect to things like the new OPP billing model. If there is no money left in the cookie jar the question simply becomes one of who pays for the contracts? From my perspective the province should be on the hook for the bill, they have downloaded enough already.

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:

If I am clear on this question it sounds like the plan would be to custom tune and control water levels in various lakes according to each lake's needs re: navigation. From my perspective, as a cottager, it sounds like a good idea. I would be willing to lobby with you in an effort to achieve that sort of control.

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

I believe in transparency, so yes these safety reviews should be public. If there are concerns regarding safety then the federal government needs to be held to account.

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:

So, I will be honest with you, I do not know what the municipality/municipalities have done to raise awareness at this point so I am not certain what remains to be done. On the other side of the coin times of low water usually reflect a “drought” situation like we had a couple of years ago. During those times the risk is forest fire. Haliburton County has not experienced any sort of serious forest fire in my living memory. That said, we are not immune, many people now have homes in wooded areas. We should be looking at a plan that will address that sort of emergency situation should the need ever arise.

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 must answer all of these questions with one blanket general response as I am not personally familiar with each one of these specific situations. Our lakes are our greatest asset and if our asset is at risk then as a stakeholder the municipality should work with Lake Associations as they are stakeholders as well. A combined lobby effort has a greater chance of success then going it alone if we want to get the attention of Parks Canada, the province or the TSW.

Responses from Adam Szelei
Candidate for Ward 2

I have read the questions and they cover a huge area, are very specific and direct questions that will require a lot of research to properly answer.

I'm not an expert in this field, but I will be doing my research on how it pertains to our area. I have to concern myself with our area with regards to these questions. It is my hope that other councillors in their areas do the same.

Lakes, runoff, water flow are definite concerns that need to be looked at. I will do my best to study these areas of concern.