

## Responses to CEWF Questions from Candidates Elected in Minden Hills

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Ward/Office</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Response?</b>
Minden Hills	Reeve	Brent Devolin	No
	Deputy Reeve	Cheryl Murdoch	No
	At Large	Ron Nesbitt	No
	1	Jeanne Anthon	Yes
	1	Lisa Schell	No
	2	Pam Sayne	Yes
	3	Jean Neville	No

## **Responses from Jeanne Anthon Candidate for Ward 1, Minden Hills**

### **Questions from the Coalition**

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?

JA: Yes, lower-tier municipalities especially are too often subject to the dictates of larger centers along the Trent River watershed and accordingly must be provided a position at discussion tables to ensure their concerns and needs are considered. I have read and support the CEWF mission and objectives plus the 2008 Panel Report on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway. I commit to keep these matters before local council.

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?

JA: Yes, I worked with Ontario Conservation Authorities several years ago in developing a watershed management tool and envied areas that utilized Authorities. I would suggest that, if an authority is contracted to manage our Haliburton systems, representation from this area sit on the Board of Directors. There will be a cost to municipalities but this would hopefully be offset by the more efficient operations of our watershed-based ecosystems. Two recent floods cost several million dollars and climate changes threaten to repeat these disasters. An agreement for Conservation Authority management should have excellent return on investment.

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 lakespecific navigation and environmental constraints such as those already identified by Coalition member lake associations? If so, what would you do about it?

JA: I can support the key recommendations of the Study. Historic use of the TSW system has changed dramatically but management plans have not. In particular, I would reinforce concerns with water quality and the need for waterflows to be maintained during spawning season. I served on the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations for fourteen years, four years as President, and would be most comfortable in facilitating meetings between the TSW and Lake Associations in Minden Hills.

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?

JA: Yes, the public has the right to know and comment on dam safety reviews. Public concerns around dam repairs and maintenance are at an all-time high following the Minden Flood of 2013. I am on the Minden Hills Disaster Relief Committee and can relate real examples of extreme stress and fear, especially with our elderly residents, regarding the stability of the dams above the village and the potential for a catastrophic event. Public safety is paramount, extreme weather events are occurring more frequently, and I will advocate for the re-assessment of municipal infrastructures for renewal in these contexts.

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?

JA: As part of their Emergency Plan renewal during the Minden Hills flood of 2013, Minden Hills activated an excellent, user-friendly website with the most up-to-date information regarding water levels, anticipated precipitation, emergency plans for homes, businesses and individuals. Hard copies of this information should be at hand at all times for those without ready access to internet. I would advocate for MNR to release their updates in a more timely manner rather than the several hours delay during the Minden Flood. A Disaster Information Centre plus a Communications Officer and Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should be identified and ready for action at any time. An annual 'dry run' should be conducted. Municipalities, in conjunction with the Ontario Government, should be prepared to issue emergency funds within hours of a disaster not two months later as happened in 2013. A reserve specific to this need should be established.

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:

- Urging action to upgrade those reservoir lake dams with a Parks Canada (poor) asset condition rating of "C" or "D" viz. Canning, Horseshoe, Elliot Falls (Moore Lake), Jack's, Big Bob, Contau, Drag, Miskwabi, Eagle, Oblong, Mississagua, Moore Falls #1 (Gull Lake), Little Bob, Redstone West?
- Installing a weir on Maple Lake (Algonquin Highlands) to reduce water level fluctuations?
- Installing an automated water level gauge on Mountain Lake (Minden Hills) rather than relying on data from Horseshoe Lake?
- Improving infrastructure at the Kennisis Lake dam (Dysart et al) as part of the announced refurbishment or rebuilding of the dam, for example improving boater safety with redesigned docking and ramp facilities?
- Obtaining flood damage curves for Boshkung Lake (Algonquin Highlands), Horseshoe, Mountain, and Twelve Mile lakes (Minden Hills)?
- Reducing use of ATV's for access to the Jack's Lake dam (North Kawartha, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen) due to the resulting trail damage?

JA: Municipal Government should establish a firm relationship with their lake associations for a number of good reasons: a sensitivity to current issues and potential resolution with both parties, recognition of the value of volunteer work by lake associations and the ensuing benefits to all residents, better awareness of municipal plans for changes affecting waterfront properties, and building trust and confidence, to name a few. Your list demonstrates some of the many issues that would benefit from such interaction. I would advocate for regular timely progress reporting to citizens and ratepayers via web sites and media on the TSW and Minden Hills Initiatives. CEWF's conclusions and recommendation are powerful in their scope and analysis and you are to be commended for your extraordinary contribution to this challenging issue.

**Responses from Pam Sayne  
Candidate for Ward 2**

Thanks you for this opportunity to not only respond to your questions but also become better informed through CEWF.

Your homework on the Trent River Watershed is of much value to me personally but even more critical for those of us that will be elected to our Municipal Council.

Working in the areas of the environment and in Building science I know the power and value of water is often underestimated. Our development decisions have not taken into account the critical management systems of our waterways. Climate change will only bring this concern further to light and we need to have our management and structures in place now - not when it is to late.... again.

Although getting my answers on the website may be good for getting elected, I think I would like to focus on getting a better understanding of your findings of the history and what hasn't worked.

[I look forward to having] a discussion in the nearest future on the questions you raised.