

Responses to CEWF Questions from Candidates Elected in North Kawartha

Municipality	Ward/Office	Candidate	Response?
North Kawartha	Mayor	Rick Woodcock	Yes
	Deputy Mayor	Doug Hutton	Yes
	At Large	Roman Miszuk	No
	1	Jim O'Shea	Yes
	2	Carolyn Amyotte	Yes

**Responses from Rick Woodcock
Candidate for Mayor**

Thank you for taking such a progressive lead with respect to an important and critical issue. In addition to my responses to CEWF's questions, readers may wish to review my website at www.Woodcock4NorthKawartha.com to get an overview of my experience and background.

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 strongly agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management as it relates to our watershed. I commend the Haliburton and the Haliburton Sector for the lead that they have taken on the management of the watershed. I will assist and support the activities of the Haliburton Sector to the greatest extent possible, as issues related to the Township of North Kawartha.

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 understand that Conservation Authorities have been limited in their ability to adequately manage issues and work towards necessary oversight and improvements due to limited budgets. I will need more information to determine the extent to which the contracting of "specific expertise and services. . ." would be viable and have an appropriate return on investment; however, strategic investments are required if solutions are to be implemented.

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, like others, have not had the benefit of reading the AECOM Water Management Study, however, I do support the concept of a constraint-based water management model and an "integrated" approach to water management.

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

The issue of 15 reservoir dams being in “poor over very poor condition” is of great concern. It would appear that improved water management is based upon dams which are in “good” condition. Such dams must be functional in order to support efficient and effective operation.

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:

Having previously lived in a community on the Grand River in Brantford, ON, I am clearly aware of the need for good communication during flooding events. I will support all viable efforts to support and improve communication tools and processes to not only communicate with residents and government agencies, but also to support communication, which will facilitate improved management of the system.

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:

My election platform includes “formal partnership programs with lake associations “ I believe that Council should be very connected to lake associations and be aware of their issues and initiatives.

I am not personally aware of the upgrades required for the Jack’s Lake dam but will support any requirements to bring it to a “good” standard. I have not had the opportunity to visit the Jack’s Lake dam but have heard from several residents that a review and appropriate action is required. If I find this to be true, I will be supportive of potential solutions.

Responses from Doug Hutton
Candidate for Deputy Mayor, North Kawartha

I will attempt to answer your questions after providing a bit of background to put my answers in perspective.

Background

I am a professional engineer who worked for 30 years in Municipal Electrical Utility Field. Most of my work was in Business Process Improvement and Business Process Re-engineering. I have attended over 160 North Kawartha council meetings over the last 9 years and written my column "Council Notes" for the Apsley Voice and Lakefield Herald.

I have seen a number of presentations, mostly from the Crowe Valley Authority (CVA), regarding budgets and strategic planning.

Based on my limited exposure to the subject;

- a. North Kawartha, or more specifically, Barry Rand, deputy Mayor, did a LOT of work with the CVA to restructure it and get it back on track.
- b. The CVA has been, and continues to be, underfunded by the federal government. The CVA staff is dedicated but the organization is financially challenged.
- c. CA's should have close ties to the townships that they protect. It doesn't make sense to me, from a business process standpoint, to have CA's controlled by entities that are arms-length stakeholders. These stakeholders place the priorities of the CAs at the bottom of the list.
- d. From the 20,000 foot level, a process that involves a CA that is marginally-functional, managed by a group that has no real stake in the operation, is akin to a "Russian Roulette game" played with logs and dams that risks private property and the environment.
- e.

Answers to the 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?

I agree that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management. I would certainly be interested in representing North Kawartha on any appropriate committee to accomplish this goal.

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 floodplain mapping for reservoir lakes deemed to have significant flood risk?

I do not have enough knowledge of this subject to give a response. I would assume that the size of the area not having a CA would be a factor combined with the capabilities of existing CA's in the adjacent areas.

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?

The AECOM 2011 report is very detailed. In general, I support the recommendations, but, like any report, I would have a better understanding of the cost / benefits of each of the recommendations before deciding what to implement

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?

Yes, assuming that this is the most effective process to actually facilitate the repairs

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?

This seems to be a communication issue. I know that councilor, Carolyn Amyotte who is on Eels Lake deals with this on a regular basis. Public education is possible the best solution describing the Preparedness Plans and contact information.

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?

I do believe that local governments should try to work with local lake associations to improve water management operations where there is sufficient proof that inaction will have a detrimental impact on the township. I cannot comment on the specific list of examples, other than items like "boater safety", "docks and ramps", and "trail damage", seem out of place with respect to other items that seem more salient to the water management issue.

I hope that my response is of some use to you,
Yours Truly,
Doug Hutton, Candidate for Deputy Mayor, North Kawartha

Responses from Jim O'Shea
Candidate (acclaimed) in Ward 1

As I reviewed your questions, I noted that they primarily refer to Haliburton County and do not apply to North Kawartha, and that I do not have sufficient information to supply educated responses. When on Council, I hope to be the rep for Crowe Valley C.A. and then might be able to properly answer your questions. As for North Kawartha, most of what you are requesting is not a municipal responsibility and is the jurisdiction of the C.A. and the TSW.

**Responses from Carolyn Amyotte
Candidate for Ward 2**

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:

North Kawartha does have a role to play in improving water management. Our township is home to both reservoir and canal lakes and is greatly impacted by the TSW and their water management decisions. My personal commitment is to continue to encourage CEWF to communicate regularly with Council. I would support having municipal representation in CEWF and Voices for the TSW. I was instrumental in having both groups present to NK Council and put forward a motion stating our support for both organizations and calling on the Federal Government to ensure that integrated watershed management is a top priority along with adequate funding and support for TSW operations and infrastructure.

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 do agree that there is merit in having a Conservation Authority provide low water response planning or flood plain mapping for not only our reservoir lakes but for both the Eels Creek and Jack's Creek watersheds. I think it especially important for Eels Creek as it flows from one end of our township to the other and crosses under critical infrastructure like road and bridges along with travelling right through the village of Apsley which is the seat of our local government and a major community hub for North Kawartha.

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:

Yes. It is important for ALL stakeholders impacted by the TSW water management to have a voice and have their issues addressed. I would continue to advocate for this as a municipal councillor. Being able to positively address navigational and environmental issues for our lake communities will be of great benefit to North Kawartha.

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. Eels Lake was fortunate in having its dams repaired a few years ago. When the panel for the 'Future of the Trent- Severn Waterway' was hosting public meetings, my husband and I made a presentation as the owners of Eels Lake Cottages & Marina, in which we highlighted an number of issues, one being the huge risk to several provincial and county highways along with municipal roads and numerous residential areas, if the dam infrastructure on our lake was not repaired. Our presentation can be found here http://www.tswpanel.ca/english/downloads/14-10-07_Caryolyn_Amyotte_and_Jeff_Ball.pdf

With the recent unpredictable weather, and 'significant precipitation events', the TSW dams have been put under a lot strain and are being used now in ways that they were not originally designed for.

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: As a NK Council representative that attended the TSW communication meeting hosted by MP Barry Devolin this past January in response to the flooding in the Spring of 2013 and communication issues (or lack of) that occurred, I believe that it is vital for all affected Township CAO's to have direct communication with the TSW water control engineer. With the flooding that happened again this past spring, the communications were greatly improved between both agencies and with our greater community. Municipalities also need to share best practices for communicating during emergencies like these. If we all follow the same model and protocols the flow of information and responses will be more accurate, effective and efficient.

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:

In general: Yes. While I do not have specific knowledge of the structures on all reservoir and flow-through lakes, North Kawartha's local economy and residents depending upon a properly funded and managed Trent Severn Waterway to be thriving and sustainable. Improving water management operations would have a positive impact on our community.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.