

## **Municipality of Dysart et al**

### **Responses of Candidates to Questions from CEWF**

*Updated September 24th, 2018*

Responses herewith from Murray Fearrey, Andrea Roberts, Dennis Casey, Patrick Kennedy, Bram Lebo, Larry Clarke, Mike Stinson, Cindy Baumhour, John Smith, Glenn Scott

#### **Murray Fearrey, Mayor**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Municipalities are an integral part of the success of the Upper Trent Water Management efforts. I have been committed and supportive for many years, frustrating many times as it has been, I see real progress in the last few years. I am pleased to see the lines of communication open, and I am pleased to serve on that Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you

support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

I absolutely would support measures for better flood control management, I believe Dysart was the first to do flood plain mapping, an initiative I strongly endorsed, and would continue to refine and implement.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

The only way we will continue to see success is involving all the players, Trent Severn, Ministry of Natural Resources, Municipal Councils, Lake Associations, Federal and Provincial Politicians, and feed in to UTWMP to make a strong and reasonable approach.

Yes, all the dates of lake specific data we can acquire to protect our fish habitat, an indication of Lake health is imperative.

## **Andrea Roberts, Mayor**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Yes, I do feel municipalities have a role to play in the management of the Haliburton area of the Trent watershed. I would continue to advocate that a representative from each municipality be on the UTWMP and that they report back to the county and their local municipality. The elected officials represent the property owners in their area and can ask questions, voice concerns and have first-hand information to be shared. In the past the management of the TSW had no local input yet we in the upper lakes are directly affected with decisions made by the TSW.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

I fully supported the county's decision to have LIDAR mapping and I hope once this is completed we can have a better understanding of what is needed to prevent and prepare for future flooding. Dysart has just completed their most current Official Plan however there are others

ways to ensure preparedness. At our local level we need to be sure we are building any new infrastructure that can withstand flooding that occurs with greater frequency than in past years.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Collaboration with TSW, MNRF, lake associations and local municipalities is essential to ensuring the best practices for water management, the health of our lakes and rivers and the habitat that depend on them. It can seem at times that we are not making a difference and that dealing with upper levels of government gets us nowhere, but public pressure is essential and we cannot simply say, “they are looking after it”. We live here and know first-hand the damage that poor management can do. Draining the upper lakes so boats can get through the locks for pleasure cruising is not benefitting the environment and that should be the priority.

## **Dennis Casey, Deputy Mayor**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Haliburton County Municipalities should definitely play a role in improving the management of not only our section of the Trent River watershed but the entire system. I am committed to the continued support of the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

With Climate Change finally coming home to rest in Haliburton County I feel that good long-term flood plain mapping and flood mitigation is of the utmost importance particularly when the 100-year flooding model is really no longer applicable. Upon each Official Plan review it is important to investigate and update any flood control provisions to ensure they are in sync with current conditions and weather events.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water

management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

a) The Municipalities should be working with all three. The lake associations, Trent Severn and the MNRF. But more so with the lake association as they are the ones “in the trench”. Our lake front property owners are the recreational users of the system and know it best. They personally experience high and low water levels and their input would be very valuable to our municipalities in assisting with managing the system and our lakes.

b) Our cottage associations in conjunction with the Coalition of Haliburton Cottage Associations (CHA) through their research and Stewardship programs have gathered a wealth of lake specific data in relationship to not only Lake Trout, but other species as well. We depend on our lakes not only for the recreational value but for the general wealth and health of our community. We must work together with everyone to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of our lakes and rivers.

## **Patrick Kennedy, Deputy Mayor**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Yes, I believe that Municipalities should be an active partner in this initiative. It is important that they be represented in any discussions or recommendations that could potentially negatively impact our lakefront property owners or residents.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

I strongly believe that mitigation planning for major emergencies (including flooding) is needed to ensure the safety of our residents and preservation of our properties.

I am pleased to see that the County was successful in receiving funding to undertake the initial steps to identify and update flood plain mapping, and that staff have been directed to apply for Phase 2 funding this fall. This data will be extremely important as mitigation strategies are developed in the future.

I served as Director of Emergency Services for the County for 8 years, so have an extensive background in emergency management, and believe in the old adage "plan for the worst, hope for the best".

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

The four municipalities and the County continue to work cooperatively with the lake associations and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association on the shoreline preservation initiative and the septic inspection program. The County is toughening up the tree cutting and shoreline preservation bylaw to further protect shoreline cover.

I believe that water management is an equally important component of the overall need to ensure good lake health for our lakefront property owners, our off-water residents and our many visitors.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a mandate to "protect Ontario's biodiversity while promoting



economic opportunities in the resource sector and supporting outdoor recreation opportunities". (from their website). The Fish and Wildlife Program needs to return to regular monitoring using standardized data collection methods of our lake-trout lakes to ensure that the future viability of not only spawning habitat and the monitoring of water levels in the fall, but to monitor the overall lake-trout health in our lakes.

### **Bram Lebo, Councillor, Ward 1**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Yes, I am committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership. As a founding member of CEWF, I've been acutely aware of water management issues and believe it's fair and appropriate to continually monitor the environmental, social and economic impacts of water management priorities and to make adjustment based on facts on the ground. The landscape has changed since the management structure and its mandate were established over 100 years ago. *It's All About the Water*

recommended a watershed approach; that seems more likely to suit our needs here in Haliburton County for predictable, manageable water flows that support fish habitats, recreation and the year-round residency we need for a sustainable economy.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

I would support better flood plain mapping where required and the implementation of long term, robust mitigation strategies that account for our changing climate and growing population base.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Yes, in all cases. Municipalities have planning and by-law tools available to ensure water management is a consideration as our community develops, and can use those tools to protect waterways and improve water

management. Because our economy is, at its core, based on the existence of safe, clean, stable residential and recreational areas on our waterways, protecting them and improving their resilience and health are vital to our future. Strong fisheries mean healthy waterways, and healthy waterways support healthy communities.

Nancy Woods-Roberts, Councillor, Ward 1

**Larry Clarke, Councillor, 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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Municipalities have a responsibility to represent the interests of all of its property owners regarding safe occupancy, and in the case of lake, river or wetland frontage or ownership, reasonable access to, and protection of, water or wetland assets.

The interests of property owners regarding water levels of rivers and lakes in the Municipality must be addressed by the Township to ensure reasonable enjoyment of water resources. Although water levels fluctuate

seasonally, draw down of levels to supply water needs of competing interests downstream is an issue that impacts enjoyment of lakes and rivers, and as a result, property values and the local economy.

Data regarding risk to properties and residents must also be developed, maintained, and regularly updated in contingency planning at the Township level with defined responsibilities for flood mitigation. This must be developed in conjunction with Provincial and Federal authorities.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

Flood plain mapping and identification of infrastructure vulnerability due to extreme weather events are necessary to enable future planning for settlement areas, building standards and emergency services.

With our changing climate and aging infrastructure, Townships need to review regularly the suitability and functionality of flood management assets, including drainage systems to protect roads and properties.

The Townships Official Plan needs to include flood or drainage risk in its updates, and its bylaws must reflect building standards for houses and roads impacted by flooding or drainage issues to mitigate these risks.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

The use and value of water resources need periodic review to ensure that all stakeholders are considered in decisions affecting water levels, and that the Townships have the relevant data from their Lake Associations to represent the interests of their waterfront residents in dealing with TSW and MNRF.

a) Priority for access to water resources based on historic agreements are out of date in most watersheds, and do not reflect the economic value to communities that have reservoir lakes and three or four-season residences.

Recreational use of lakes that are part of the reservoir, or flow through system, need to be assessed to ensure that the economic value of lake use is understood. This is of

particular importance for lakes that have water only access during the fall draw down.

b) Both water level and climate change have significant impact on the variety of fish and spawning habitat of our lakes. Roles, responsibilities and resources of Provincial and Federal levels of government to study, monitor and manage impacts of change need to be reestablished. This must to be pushed by all townships with cold water lakes if we wish to maintain recreational fishing.

David McKay, Councillor, Ward 2

### **Mike Stinson, Councillor, 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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

Yes, I agree that the municipality has a role to play in improving water management.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

Yes, I would support initiatives to help strengthen flood control. Such as initiatives to provide better flood mapping and flood mitigation.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Yes, I think all levels of Government and lake associations should work together. I believe better communication is part of the answer even between the same Government agency. You may not know but I have lived on Drag Lake for the past 50 years and have seen some of the problems.

### **Cindy Baumhour, Councillor Ward 3**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you

support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

I am committed to continue supporting the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership.

*Cindy Baumhour*

Tammy Donaldson, Councillor, Ward 3

### **John Smith, Councillor, Ward 4**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

I absolutely agree that our local municipalities should be involved and playing a role in the water management of our portion of the watershed area. As a member of the



Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA) I benefitted considerably from the efforts of the CEWF in terms of education, knowledge sharing and advocating on behalf of property owners on lakes which feed the TSW. More recently as a Board member of the KLCOA I have had an even better opportunity to see firsthand the value of the CEWF work. I firmly believe our local government must work more closely with lake associations in a variety of areas, including water management. I am personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership and would welcome the opportunity to be personally involved in this work as a Dysart Councillor.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

Although the flood history in Dysart has not been as bad as some other parts of Haliburton County I do think we need to better understand our flood risks. Mapping and planning would assist with the related decision making. The highwater levels of some recent Spring seasons have impacted lake front properties across Dysart. At least one

home on Redstone Lake required multiple levels of sandbags to protect their house from flooding. Damage to property owners' infrastructure (docks and such) has been common. Getting a more complete understanding of the impact of very high-water levels would help us guide discussions regarding water level management and inform property owners of steps they can take to protect their own property.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

I am in complete agreement that our local municipal governments should be working with lake associations, the TSW and the MNRF to continue to improve water management operations for the benefit of property owners on all reservoir and flow-through lakes. I would also invite the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations) to join the discussions since not all lake associations have sufficient volunteers to effectively

participate. We need to recognize that water level preferences vary lake to lake and even property to property. I believe we must do a better job of understanding and managing to the desired outcomes lake by lake based on input from each lake association. The CHA and lake associations often have lake-specific data re trout spawning and are committed to improving and protecting fish habitat. We should support their objectives.

Aaron Walker, Councillor, Ward 4

Walt McKechnie, Councillor, Ward 5

**Glenn Scott, Councillor, Ward 5**

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, are you personally committed to continued municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership?

As the President of the Haliburton Lake Cottagers' Association I have attended every CEWF meeting in the last four years. I support the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership that has been created giving

Haliburton County a stronger voice with the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). The TSW has done a great job managing the water levels this year in drought and heavy rain conditions. I believe the new relationship with the partnership and the TSW has contributed to this success.

2. What would you do to strengthen the flood control and mitigation provisions of your municipality's Official Plan? For example, would you support initiatives to provide better flood plain mapping and flood mitigation planning as the basis for decision-making?

I support initiatives to provide better flood control and mitigation provisions in the Official Plan of Dysart.

Haliburton County must find a solution to the flooding that has occurred in the Minden area.

3. Do you agree that municipal governments should work with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and the connecting rivers? For example, are you in favour of: a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes; and b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Municipal governments should continue to collaborate with all interested parties to further improve water management operations. I support all initiatives such as those listed that will improve water management

operations. The HLCA has had Ted Spence, Chair CEWF, at our AGM to educate our members on the CEWF mandate and value proposition. It was met with strong interest and support.