

Minden Hills

Candidate Responses to Questions from CEWF

Updated September 26th, 2018

Responses herewith from Brent Devolin, Wayne Hancock, John Teljeur, Richard Bradley, Clayton Cameron, Bob Carter, Jennifer Hughey, Rob Luke, Mike Grozelle, Pam Sayne, Russ Duhaime, Jean Neville

Brent Devolin, 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?

I totally agree that municipalities have a significant role to help improve water management in all 6 municipalities that make up the watershed (reservoir lakes) that serves the TSW. As a founding member, I was interested in the creation of such an organization and am committed to be part of the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). In the absence of a Conservation Authority (C.A.), municipal politicians and CEWF members formed a hybrid group that functions and is received by both federal and provincial in many of

the same ways that C.A. has input on policy. The fact that UTWMP is received by both other regional C.A.'s and the MNRF is proof of success that our hybrid approach has been successful.

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 am absolutely committed to strengthening Official Plans at any level of government (County or Municipal) that will help achieve better operational results and are part of permanent solutions to flooding and drought mitigation results. I was happy to be part of a County/Municipal initiative in 2017 at AMO in Ottawa that lobbied successfully both the provincial and federal governments to support LIDAR mapping for the reservoir lakes of the TSW. This mapping is critical so that all partners (TSW, MNRF, UTWMP, CEWF, etc.) will have super accurate ortho-photography to plot the basins to give modern accurate data for operational and asset design (i.e. Dams) planning in the future.

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) Water conservation is critical for a whole host of considerations, including the recreational use of reservoir lakes. I would like to have an economic analysis of the asset and GDP value of the reservoir lakes vs. the canal in 2018. In over a hundred years with the changes that have occurred in our area, I suspect that the economic value of the reservoirs lakes is huge and may perhaps be worth more than that of the canal.

b) Tourism is the leading industry in Haliburton County, and the quality of water and pristine habitat that surrounds us all underpins that worth. All data, that helps support native plant and wildlife in our growing region is of primary importance. Lake trout are a very sensitive species that are a good indicator of water quality in our lakes, and any data that helps support better operational outcomes for all species at risks is worth pursuing.

Jarrett Campbell, Mayor

Wayne Hancock, 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?

I do believe that Municipalities have a major role to play in this watershed. I would be personally committed to see this happen with our Municipal Council. To do this, I would propose to strengthen the communications with our Township, the County, MNR, Trent Severn and Parks Canada. I would propose to co-ordinate regular meetings, monthly to start to see how each of the agencies relate and improve working together. This is a large issue and will take co-ordination, financial support, and on-going effort to see positive results. It will also require policy changes at the provincial and federal agencies.

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 start by understanding what the present official plan states and how present specific policies and sections relate to this issue. There are a number of ways to help in this area. As an example, new

development would be required to provide proper stormwater management, low impact development techniques. No future development should be constructed in the flood plain.

In regard to mapping, most agencies have been provided funding, made available through the federal programs to update and complete proper flood mapping. This should be a priority with any Municipality.

The official plan can be updated accordingly to include new policies and objectives to work in line with the Coalition. With ongoing flooding in many areas, it must start with the local municipalities' official plan policies and municipal requirements to help control the problem.

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) I would support urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes. This is key to a major part of our local industry. Having grown up on Salerno Lake, we could see water levels lower by over 2

meters in one summer. In some lakes, water levels can raise or lower by more than this in one day. These changes have major impacts on many parts of our environment including the overall life expectancy of good water quality, shorelines and fish habitat, as examples. We must quickly move to control this.

b) The acquisition of lake specific data is key to many things. Fish habitat and spawning beds are one, but also, regeneration of populations, such as frogs, minnows, crayfish. All are in a declining state and I believe we must move now to change this and protect these areas. The water levels are so critical to so many issues, such as weed growth, algae growth, etc., and when we disturb the original balance that was created by the original water levels, we can never replace them.

To accomplish meaningful progress in this area, we need the larger government agencies, particularly Trent Severn and Parks Canada, to review their own policies, listen to the people affected and to do something. We need change to accomplish the goals of the Coalition and I will be there to support your group.

Lisa Schell, Deputy Mayor, **Acclaimed**

Ron Nesbitt, Councillor at Large

John Teljeur, Councillor at Large

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?

All municipalities in the region should take a leadership role in advocating for a better and fairer management of our watersheds in order to protect the rights of land/cottage owners and our tourism industry. The widely fluctuating water levels, especially high water/flooding conditions have had a devastating effect on businesses in the Minden area.

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?

The funding for LIDAR mapping was a good first step in providing valuable information to the region to develop flood mitigation strategies which should be incorporated

into the official plan. It is imperative that this information is used to take necessary steps that will reduce/eliminate the impact of all too frequent flooding in the spring that has had devastating effects on the businesses, homes and people in the region.

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?

Working with the various stakeholders is the only way to ensure an effective outcome and buy in. The quality and quantity of water in our watersheds is intrinsically linked to the health of our tourism/cottage industry and those businesses that rely on it.

Richard Bradley, 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, municipalities have a role to play. I believe that includes lobbying the Federal Government for mandate change for the Trent Severn Waterway. I would like to see the primary focus of the system be flood mitigation while maintaining an always navigable level in the Trent Severn as secondary. I did ask Doug Ford during the election campaign if he would assist us to this end; he gave me his word that he would help support us in our goal of mandate change. I understand that flash flooding is always something we are going to have to endure, but am not willing to “blame mother nature” for the two recent flood events in Minden. I am personally committed to supporting 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?

I would, as mentioned above, continue to lobby the Federal Government to provide funding and expertise for additional flood plain mapping and mitigating floods. I find it quite perplexing that the Gull River is part of a system that is supposed to ensure the Trent Severn remains navigable, but due to the Orillia Power Dam

there are often times when the Gull River is not navigable. How many folks have found themselves stranded and unable to get home when the dam gets shut off or worse have suffered damage to their boats or motors due to unexpectedly low water levels. I have experienced years when the draw down has occurred unexpectedly early and have had to gather together the collective strength to relocate a 26-foot boat from the sand back into the water. Feeder lakes should have a reasonable expectation of water levels and if and when that seems to be unlikely, how about a text network from the Trent Severn that provides us adequate notice of the probability of low water levels so perhaps we can relocate or remove our water craft before it's too low?

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 do believe lake associations should be provided education, support and should be involved in any planning that affects their lake(s) through consultation.

Water is a vital resource and should never be wasted; conservation should play a role in maintaining lake levels throughout the supply system. Our area is known as a place to fish, so protecting fish habitat and therefore the stock of fish throughout the feeder lakes and in fact all lakes I see as beneficial. The subsequent sharing of the information to me seems twice as important as gathering it. Education and information for the owners/visitors to lakes should be readily available and easy to understand with best practices outlined for the do's and don'ts around know spawning beds and other more general information about responsible behaviour in and around water including keeping the waterfront area as natural as is possible.

Clayton Cameron, 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?

Parks Canada is responsible for water levels on the Trent Severn Waterway since its inception. There needs to be dialogue between all levels of government to improve the existing situation.

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?

The existing flood plain mapping is reasonable and was done with input from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Unfortunately, when flood conditions occur there is too much water and damages result.

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?

Water conservation is always important. Unfortunately, as reservoir lakes, the water levels are controlled by the need for water down stream to maintain boat traffic. More data for lakes would be of assistance in planning how local water levels of spawning areas and may help to maintain reasonable water levels in the future.

Bob Carter, 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?

I am the President of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization and have been attending the CEWF AGM for several years. I agree that the municipalities have a key role to play in water management in the Haliburton sector. Along with the fact that water quantity and quality on our lakes are important drivers of our economy; exceptional weather events, aging infrastructure and the potential consequences of flooding are essential reasons for the municipalities to be involved. In addition, since we have no Conservation Authority and limited support from the Provincial and Federal governments, the municipalities need to fill the void left by the other levels of government. I am strongly 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?

I think it is absolutely necessary to continue the work on flood plain mapping and to expand the modelling to support the decision making and planning for flooding. I will work to update our Official Plans and Bylaws to ensure that future development is done responsibly.

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?

Citizen scientists and lake associations are increasing their roles on the lakes in collecting data on water quality, invasive species, fish, birds, etc. We are all stewards of these wonderful lakes and to ensure that future generations can have the same enjoyment and experiences that we have, municipalities, lake associations, FOCA, CHA, CEWF, Parks Canada, MNRF and other groups need to work together cooperatively on all the issues concerning our lakes. I strongly support initiatives to educate, employ best practices and in some cases to regulate to protect our lakes and I will work with

or serve on any groups that are formed to study and address the issues.

Jennifer Hughey, 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?

It is imperative that municipalities continue to play a role in the improvement of water management within the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed. It is also imperative for government, at a local level, to remain committed to the initiatives already in play, in the form of municipal support for UTWMP. Minden Hills' track record for flooding and high-water threats continuously plays over in the minds of all parties who are now partnering to work together on this and I believe we are on the right track with this project. Climate change affects all of us. I am also an active member of Environment Haliburton!

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?

If you think about an **Official Plan** – the thought is to create a document listing the municipality’s goals, objectives, land use designations and “land use policies for these designations to manage and direct development and land uses throughout the Township.” These “living documents” can change frequently as they are reviewed all the time.

With that in mind, to strengthen flood control and mitigation provisions, I would support research or review by a consultant that would work with the TSW or the CEWP to yes, provide better flood plain mapping and additional planning and procedures so as to streamline the decision-making process between multiple parties. My entire career has been based around planning, pre-planning, post-planning and execution and that would greatly benefit our municipality of a mitigated provisional process of including more on this in the Official Plan. I think there needs to be a discussion on the need to halt development in the flood plain, or to naturalize these areas for the *public benefit*, like with parks and nature areas. If you have been following along, you will know that MH Council, in fact, is doing the opposite - they were disposing of property assets listed as flood plain. This is confusing for me and many other electors, if the

municipality has to end up expropriating or buying back that land.

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 (MNR) 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?

Of course, I absolutely agree. Partnerships promote collaboration among these three organizations, which in all honesty makes complete sense for the future of lake health. The improvement of these management operations will only better the continued research and review of the flow-through lakes and connecting bodies of water.

For example, are you in favour of:

a. urging water conservation to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes;

I believe the recreational use of the reservoir lakes is important to the success of our County and ultimately, our municipality. It will be interesting to see what the consultant reports suggest when it comes to drawing down the lake levels in the Fall. If, which many suspect

they will, they recommend doing this method, that may mean a great flow through the system in the Spring and continued detriment to the Township of Minden Hills. I also suggest lake property owners to think about shoreline naturalization or re-naturalization.

b. the acquisition of lake-specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat?

Most definitely. Environment Haliburton! recently hosted a scientist from the MNRF who discussed lake health and the effects of climate change on various types of fish species in our local lakes. I would support the acquisition of lake specific data re: location and depth of trout spawning beds and therefore, protecting and improving the habitat in the surrounding areas. And even though I certainly recognize that while this is largely the purview of the province, the municipality should support the facilitation of and documentation of this research. I would continue to support the long history of community-based research in this area in conjunction with Trent University.

Rob Luke, 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, Municipalities must play a role in all waters within their boundaries. The Trent River System plays a role in many Municipalities along its banks so a solid partnership is a must.

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?

A better mapping system would be a good start, but we must follow up with best practice for the basis of a long-term solution and future 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?

This is self evident. If we are not listening to all stakeholders we are not doing our job.

As elected representatives we have an obligation to serve all of the people. I am a long time Lake front property owner and as such have seen the best and the worst that can happen.

I remain at your service.

Dwight Thomas, Councillor, Ward 1

Mike Grozelle, 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?
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?

Thank you for the opportunity to read and respond to your letter, First the water levels should be important to everyone in our area, from cottagers to sport fisherman, boaters and swimmers alike. I live across from Moore Lake and have noticed that the levels lower than usual in it and the other lakes in our area. We already have one federal and three provincial levels of government covering most of the concerns in your letter. If I were elected to council I would pick up where this council leaves off, I do however believe that I would also lobby for the federal and provincial governments to increase their funding so these people can do the jobs they were originally created to do. Like control the water levels, and flooding, do fish spawning and habitat studies. Maintain dams and monitor water usage, as well as enforcement of offenders. I look forward to doing my part at the municipal level to see that all your concerns are addressed to the best of my ability over the next four years.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a difference.
Mike Grozelle Candidate Ward 2, Minden Hills.

Pam Sayne, 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 strongly support the work of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) volunteers and the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP). Your scientific approach contributing to our strategies, both short and long term, to deal with radically changing weather conditions and water flows continue to be our first source of knowledge. This is important to manage water flows and predict potentially disastrous conditions. As Councillor for Ward 2, I plan to propose a reporting structure for Minden Hills Council, so that information from the CEWF and UTWMP meetings are formally reported at Council meetings, becoming part of the public record, and Councillor's collective knowledge.

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?

The issues are only getting more and more critical each year. We must be much more proactive and forward thinking to be able to mitigate the "perfect storms" that

potentially could cause another disaster to private properties and our municipal and county infrastructure. As your Councilor, I initiated the formation of the Minden Hills' Climate Change Action Committee. Our Committee is pushing for better coordinated efforts between the other Municipalities, the County, Provincial government and its mandated organizations. Water levels affect us all on a regional level and require regional coordination and input.

With a Climate Change Action Committee member, I attended presentations in the Muskoka area to learn how they are successfully addressing the increased water concerns through good planning and engineering. We have a great deal to learn from their experience.

Environment Haliburton was instrumental in bringing speakers from this area to talk to our community on the experience of the Muskoka watershed planning. We need to learn quickly from other communities and become more progressive in our engineered planning for quickly changing water levels and climate.

The Upper Trent Water Management Partnership (UTWMP), initiated thanks to the scientific work and political tenacity of CEWF members, plays a critical role for our region. This work, presenting local scientific

monitoring and input, promotes a strong base to apply political pressure to better regulate the flows of water through our area. This is vital as our first line of defense. This provides the basis for our input addressing antiquated provincial regulations and managing our environment as we respond to changing water levels, and the increasingly radical weather conditions created by climate change. I became familiar with the work of the CEWF eight years ago, and continue to be a strong supporter.

As we do not have a regional water management system, the UTWMP and the CEWF are necessary. UTWMP is critical to further improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and connecting rivers in the County. Our municipality must be fully engaged in working on these issues at all levels.

I was part of a multi-level municipal delegation to the Minister at the 2017 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference, where we requested support for these pressing issues in our community. We were met with favorable views from the Province. This project continues through the County initiatives.

We continue to work towards improved flood plain mapping, working towards the needed Provincial support to initiate LIDAR mapping. This will inform our official plans, future development and infrastructure needs to address flooding concerns. Flood mitigation planning is critical and the municipality is following a plan to limit problems as recommended in reports of previous floods. Much of this work addresses infrastructure for Minden's downtown area, lakes and waterways and roadways. It also includes financial reserves for potential problems.

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. Municipal governments must work with local lake associations, the TSW and MNRF to improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes and connecting rivers. We must encourage water conservation – and protection – to support not only the recreational use of the reservoir lakes, but their environmental integrity as well. The acquisition of lake-

specific data with regard to the location and depth of trout spawning beds to improve and protect fish habitat is definitely a very important part of the overall “healthy lakes” equation.

We need to work together. We cannot solely depend on provincial support or direction. We need to find made-at-home scientifically-based solutions. Our climate is changing. Our practices and regulations need to change so we can mitigate harm and sensibly plan to eliminate future risks in private and public investments.

Residents and visitors need to be informed how their waterfront behavior affects all of us; they need to know, for example, the expected risks of building within shoreline allowances as water levels fluctuate.

Municipalities need to work closely with the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owner Associations, who does an exemplary job of working with lakefront property owners.

“We Need to do Better Together” is not just my campaign slogan. The work of CEWF and UTWMP, along with the initiatives of CHA, is a case in point for our Municipal Council: we do – do better together!

Russ Duhaime, 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?
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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?

As a member of Whitewater Ontario, which owns the Minden Wild Water Preserve, I have a keen interest in the management of water flow through the Trent system. I am aware that management of the flows is a very difficult matter, since there are competing interests in the resource. Property owners on reservoir lakes desire less fluctuation in lake levels. Paddlers at the preserve desire consistent flow. Property owners on the Gull River need flood protection. Boaters navigating the

Trent system locks require a minimum flow. Fish and other aquatic life also require reliable fluctuations in levels and flows.

Management seems to be further compounded by the reality that effective decision making can no longer rely on historic weather patterns. With this in mind, it's vital that the municipality has an effective voice in short- and long-term water management planning.

Flood plain mapping for the Minden area is based on historical data. It might be prudent to update the mapping considering that historical benchmarks may no longer be valid. Furthermore, it would be wise to begin to investigate methods of minimizing flood damage, particularly within the village of Minden.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to working with you to achieve improvements to water management throughout the Trent system.

Jean Neville, 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 agree with all of the issues sent as questions.

The CEWF has done amazing work since its inception. Your dedication and expertise are superior.

Municipalities definitely should take an active role. How this would look within the municipal system should be considered. Since councils change every 4 years and CEWF has the knowledge and history, should council have your member as a regular liaison to council instead of the other way around? In my way of thinking it would make more sense for presenting a stronger position.