

## **North Kawartha**

### **Candidate Responses to Questions from CEWF**

*Updated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

Responses herewith from Carolyn Amyotte, Rick Woodcock, Doug Hutton, Jim Whelan, Tim Powell, Jim O'Shea, Dave Wease, Colin McLellan

#### **Carolyn Amyotte, 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 agree that municipalities have a role to play in the water management of our region. North Kawartha is home to both reservoir lakes and canal lakes and the Eels Creek watershed flows throughout our entire township. We are greatly impacted by the TSW activities with regards to dam operations and water management decisions. As the current NK rep on UTWMP I wholeheartedly support continued municipal representation and support for this most worthwhile group.

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?

There is no mapping and/or flood mitigation planning for our Eels Creek watershed or the Jack's Creek watershed. It has been a goal of mine to have these initiatives completed for a number of years. I am hopeful that through our involvement with UTWMP we may be able to partner with other members and/or access funding that would allow us to complete these studies.

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) Yes. b) Yes. I have lived on Eels Lake for over 20 years and have been very vocal about having input into the water management activities on our lake. There are so many stakeholders that are affected by the TSW operations and it is vital that they all have voice at the table. By working together and sharing data and

information we will have a much more integrated and responsible approach to watershed management.

As someone who has advocated strongly for the creation of a group like UTWMP I am so pleased that this partnership has become a reality. I look forward to continued collaboration with you.

### **Rick Woodcock, 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 support the position that municipalities have a role to play in working to improve water management in the Haliburton Sector of the Trent River watershed. I will continue municipal support for the Upper Trent Water Management Partnership. As we are aware, the mandates of municipalities are primarily towards roads, bridges, services etc., but it is critical that we all work together to ensure that the best management and the best infrastructure is available to address our watersheds.

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?

It is critical that we endorse active plans to address the threats related to unusual and dramatic weather conditions related to climate change. To that end, better flood plan mapping and flood mitigation planning is an important piece of that objective. I have visited the dams and Jack Lake and two neighboring townships and came away very disturbed at the physical condition of those dams along with reports about poor ongoing management; somehow a solution needs to be addressed.

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 totally endorse the concept of municipal governments working with local lake associations, the Trent Severn Waterway and the MNRF to improve water management operations on reservoir and flow-through lakes. I have promoted the idea of formal relationships between the

municipality and lake associations for some time with a goal to share information, learn from each other and share common issues and concerns. I work on the principle that our township has a tax base consisting of little commercial and no industrial; consequently, our lakes are our industry and without lakes with good quality water, then our industry disappears.

(a) I know very little about the concept of “urging water conservation” to support recreational use of the reservoir lakes. I require more information with respect to the process and potential consequences of such a plan.

(b) The acquisition of “lake specific data” is critical in order to protect trout spawning beds along with other species such as loon nesting areas etc. I feel that many lake associations have a handle on such issues; we need to work together to ensure that we stay ahead of the threats.

### **Doug Hutton, 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?

I agree that municipalities have a role to play in supporting effective water management. TSW activities affect our lakes and can create a detrimental effect on property values.

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?

There are areas of the county where the mapping is lacking or extremely inaccurate. There are huge areas that have no detailed maps at all. Until accurate mapping is available, any mitigation work on flood plains could be ineffective.

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 lake associations need to get more involved. Unfortunately, many of the associations are very small with limited resources.

a) I am in favour of reasonable water conservation efforts to support recreational use because the recreation and tourism form the core of our business. Having said that, I don't know how you measure the importance of an urban resident washing their car versus keeping a lake deep enough to permit a lake resident to water ski. The key is to have agencies and associations to work in a co-ordinated fashion.

b) I fully support the collection of meaningful data, if there is an intention of using it. I don't understand why the focus is only on trout. Although trout is an indicator of a healthy lake, do we not need to understand how we are harming all fish spawning beds? From a larger perspective, is the goal to protect all fish habitat? If so, what are the financial, ecological and social costs? Is there data demonstrating that poor water management techniques damage fish habitat for all fish, or do the fish adapt to the changes? If meaningful data could be gathered, we should be able to understand the mechanisms at work.

## **Jim Whelan, 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?

I was Mayor in North Kawartha when you originally organized and I had the Township join and was also on the Anstruther Lake Board and we joined. Yes, we should be involved.

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 have never been involved in anything to do with flood plain so would have to study how and where it could be of benefit to our Township. I know it is a major problem in some areas you cover but will mapping be beneficial?

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?



Are you suggesting that there is a better agency to handle water flow than the Trent Severn? They have to relieve the water levels in Spring without knowing what the summer season will bring (wet or dry). Then they must make sure the generating stations have enough water to ensure that the hydro generating plants have an adequate supply of water, and secondly tourist trade on the waterway. Who are you suggesting that could handle a very complex situation better than the agency in place?

Roman Miszuk, Councillor at Large

**Tim Powell, 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?

Municipalities do have a roll to play in the management of all watersheds that affect our region and I do support this Municipalities involvement in respect to Equitable Water Flow.

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?

We are under the County of Peterborough's Official Plan with a local component and I do support better flood plain mapping if necessary and of course flood mitigation planning is a necessity.

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 that the Township should work with all organizations and agencies in respect to our lakes and

a) I would point out that some lakes were created simply as reservoir water bodies and recreational use came later but there must be consideration for recreational uses as they are the mainstay of cottage country so I would support retaining lake levels as long as possible into the Fall Season.

b) Yes

## **Jim O'Shea, Councillor, Ward 1, Acclaimed**

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?

Your concerns are much the same as any lake resident, permanent or seasonal. Yes, where municipal support can be given, I will support the Coalition.

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?

Regarding flood control and mitigation provisions, and that such is within the municipality's control, I will support including in the Official Plan the strengthening of flood control language to ensure that the affected lakes have appropriate input.

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, municipalities and lake associations should work together with the TSW/MNRF to improve water management operations, recreational use, and the fisheries, on the reservoir and flow-through lakes

### **Dave Wease, Councillor, Ward2**

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 that local governments should take an active roll in urging water conservation to support recreational use of reservoir lakes.

I also support the acquisition of data with regard to the locations of depth of trout spawning areas to improve and protect habitat.

## **Colin McLellan, 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. Any time multiple levels of government are involved in related projects the most localized government needs to try and take lead for organization. In this case that would be town and county council.

In regards to water level management I feel most of the responsibility is split amongst the federal and municipal governments. Historically the two levels of government have not been the greatest communicators. While the onus is not any individual level of governments I would like to see the municipal governments take lead with localized information.

The budgetary responsibility must be shared though. Townships must have prepared all of the appropriate

environmental protection and disaster mitigation studies in advance of their necessity. I would much rather see preventive maintenance than reactionary repairs. We cannot expect the federal government to know what portions of the waterway are the most important to protect or maintain. If we are not active participants in the process I am concerned we will be left with a “why spend money there, look over there that’s way worse” dialogue which is beyond frustrating. Governments can use their buying power to help its citizens transition to a lower flow lifestyle. I would also support having the municipal government participate in buy-back projects similar to the LED bulb rebate offered by other levels of government.

To keep part two short, yes - municipal governments should continue to support the Upper Trent Waterway Management Program.

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?

As mentioned before I am a fan of preventive maintenance to avoid costly urgent repairs. Flood plain

mapping and mitigation protocol development are two very important tools for a township. This is contingent on the information being accurate and current. While these reports help address the root of the problem, situations arise that are simply beyond our control. As our climate changes our governments need to as well. Larger more sporadic storms are expected to be the new norm.

Many of the townships involved with the Upper Trent Waterway Management Program are large with uninhabited lands, North Kawartha included. I would be supportive of the township updating mapping and developing mitigation strategies in selected, sensitive areas. Priority should be placed on personal safety and protecting expensive or essential infrastructure. Once those are adequately managed then governments should concern itself with recreational use.

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?

Municipalities should absolutely co-operate with local lake associations and interest groups such as yourselves. As stated before, I support the municipality taking lead amongst the three levels of government as they have the most localized information. The only way council actually gets this information is by actively communicating and learning from any group or individual with interest in the project.

Water conservation is something worth co-operating on. In the long run it is a environmental and financial win-win. Local governments must also do all they can to have the federal government upgrade their locks. While I do think it is important to highlight and protect the heritage of our lock systems the cumulative losses from the leaks between the Upper Trent Waterway and Lake Ontario are not insubstantial and must be dealt with.

I would prefer to see the MNR and provincial government take lead with the trout spawning studies. Trout are found throughout our province and consistency in scientific studies is important. My chief concern is simply miscommunication. Patchy, incomplete, inconsistent studies are almost as dangerous as they useful.



Thanks again for reaching out, if there's anything else I can help with just let me know!