

The purpose of the Lake of Bays Association is to promote, maintain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well-served community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays.

Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation

Secures Historic Marsh's Falls Property

by Bruce MacLellan, President, LBHF

The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF) is excited to announce that one of Lake of Bays' best known sites has been secured for permanent conservation protection, encompassing 90 acres of adjacent forest and 3,400 feet of shoreline. Our generous donors and hard-working volunteers have made this success possible.

The property is on the north side of the lower Oxtongue River at Marsh's Falls. A highly significant and ecologically important property, the river flows from Algonquin Park into Dwight Bay on Lake of Bays. It will now be permanently protected as a natural heritage site owned by the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation.

Together with an adjacent property acquired in 2008, LBHF now owns and is preserving 170 acres of mature wooded land as well as approximately seven kilometers of shoreline on both sides of the Oxtongue River. The entire area protected by the LBHF represents approximately 55 per cent of the lower Oxtongue's total shoreline.

We are grateful to our many Life Members and other donors who have made this acquisition possible by their financial support over the years. Three families on the lake generously donated \$50,000 each and we had several other large donations. In addition, the Lake of Bays Association donated \$15,000. Securing this property was a stretch, and a bank loan was arranged with the CIBC in Huntsville. Now, fundraising is needed to retire the debt and we call on all community members to make a contribution. Donations to the Foundation will receive a charitable tax receipt.

The Oxtongue River stretches approximately 35 kilometres from Algonquin Park to Lake of Bays and was once an impor-



tant canoe route through Muskoka. The Oxtongue is one of the primary headwaters for the Lake of Bays, and the river meanders and creates a diversity of habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species. The lower Oxtongue runs between Marsh's Falls at Highway 35 and Lake of Bays and is recognized for its ecological importance in the Muskoka District Heritage Areas Program and by the Township of Lake of Bays in its Official Plan.

The Foundation will work with ecologists to assess the habitat and species found on the property and then develop a permanent stewardship plan. Given the combination of mature forest and riparian habitat, it is believed the property is one of the richest in terms of species diversity to be found anywhere in Lake of Bays Township.

The site is also historically significant as it dates from the era in which European settlement started to change the lives of Muskoka's First Nations. The Free Grants

and Homesteads Act of 1862 opened Muskoka to land grant settlement, although it did not reach the Dwight area until about 1877. On February 19, 1884, registry office records show that Captain George F. Marsh acquired Lots 7 and 8 at the falls on the Oxtongue River. For the next 130 years, land that had been used and stewarded by generations of Ojibwa people became privately owned.

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President's Message

by Ian Beverley, President, Lake of Bays Association



In many ways municipal government is the most important level of government not only because it provides so many of the services that people expect—water, sewer, roads, fire protection, waste management, community services—but also because municipalities establish the framework for local planning and development. So it is appropriate that my first message to LOBA members is devoted to the upcoming October 27 municipal election.

Two-tier municipal government such as Muskoka's is complex. The upper tier, the District of Muskoka, provides services such as water and sewer, health care, hospitals, solid waste management, district road maintenance, community support services and certain planning services related to land subdivision and lot severances. The District is also responsible for economic development. District Council includes 22 elected representatives (the mayor and two district councillors for each of Lake of Bays and Georgian Bay Townships, and the mayor and three district councillors for the Township of Muskoka Lakes and the Towns of Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Huntsville) plus the District Chair who is appointed by the members of District Council. The Township of Lake of Bays is responsible for maintaining township roads, local planning by-laws, building permit applications, fire protection, and local parks, libraries and community centres. The Township of Lake of Bays Council has seven members: the mayor, two district councillors and four ward councillors (Ridout, Sinclair/Finlayson, McLean and Franklin).

Opinions about regional government are varied. Some say that there is a duplication of services between the District and townships with regard to planning, while others understand that the planning functions of the District and local municipalities are clearly delineated, and that it is important to have certain functions, such as water and sewage treatment and waste management, undertaken at the District level. Still others say the District ignores the needs of the rural and waterfront town-

ships, and favours the towns. For example, the new District solid waste cost allocation model may result in a significant increase in costs to Lake of Bays residents while it subsidizes the waste management costs of the towns. A counterargument to this is that the services available in the towns benefit rural and waterfront populations.

The alternative could be to have only one municipal government in Muskoka. Would that be a good thing for Lake of Bays? In one large municipal government, would the interests of Lake of Bays residents be heard? Important questions for sure! Perhaps it would be possible to reduce costs by sharing more services with other municipalities as is currently done with the Town of Huntsville with fire protection—but there are limits to which this can be done without effectively resulting in a merger of municipalities which could also be problematic for Lake of Bays.

Whatever your views, it can't be denied that municipal government matters and all LOBA members must vote this fall. In preparation for the election, we have questioned this year's candidates about the current issues facing the township. Summaries of those interviews are provided on the Election Insert pages and we hope that they will be helpful to you in making your voting decisions.

Formed in 1927, the Lake of Bays Association's core objective is to promote, maintain and enhance a clean, healthy and natural environment, a well-served community and a safe, peaceful Lake of Bays for today and the future. While LOBA has decided not to endorse specific candidates we ask that you consider this core objective when making your voting decisions.

Lake of Bays Photo Contest

Show us your stuff!

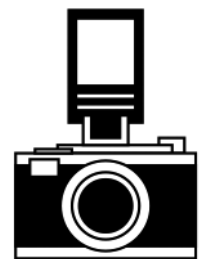
Deadline is December 31

Categories:

Life at the Lake—people and dwellings

Nature—wild plants and animals

Landscapes—land, water and sky



Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and their families. Please submit photos digitally to Aben Graphics, info@abengraphics.com, with "Lake of Bays Photo Contest" as the subject line. Each participant agrees to the use of their photos in the Lake of Bays Association newsletter, yearbook and website.

Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation Secures Historic Marsh's Falls Property *continued from page 1*

Marsh, an entrepreneur, moved north from where his family lived near Toronto and built a sawmill by the falls where the first steamship built at Lake of Bays was constructed. Named the Mary Louise, after his wife, the ship served the freight and passenger needs of the lake for many years. Marsh also had the inspiration for the Portage Railway, a small train using a narrow gauge track to connect Peninsula Lake and Lake of Bays. The railway opened in 1904 and brought tourists and residents to the lake. Sadly, Marsh died in 1905.

There are few sites with as much natural and historic value in our community. Protecting properties such as this is exactly what was intended by our Foundation's founders in 1985. Today, the Foundation operates a Land Conservation Fund to assist in meeting the custodial costs of protected land and in pursuing other conservation opportunities. The loan needs to be repaid and the fund replenished. **We hope everyone will consider sending a tax receipt eligible donation made payable to Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 81, Baysville, ON, P0B 1A0.** Thank you, and please call with questions at (416) 969-2727.



2014–2015 Board of Directors

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Brian Simpson

2014 Betty Day Award Winner



Brian Simpson (right) receives the Betty Day Award from his co-chair of LOBA's Planning Committee, Barry Morrison (left).

Congratulations to Brian Simpson, winner of the Betty Day Award, presented on July 12, 2014 at the Lake of Bays Association Annual Meeting in Baysville. The Betty Day Award is presented annually to recognize the extraordinary efforts of a volunteer in furthering the goals of the Association.

Brian joined the LOBA Board as co-chair of the Planning and Development Committee in 2008. For the last six years Brian has diligently monitored the Township of Lake of Bays planning meetings to keep LOBA apprised of issues relevant to waterfront property development and decisions that may have lake-wide impact. Passionate about the Lake of Bays community, Brian participated in the development of the Township's Strategic Plan in 2009 and is currently a member of the Township's Official Plan Review Advisory Committee. Protecting our water quality is a priority for Brian and he has been tireless in championing the Development Permit Bylaw that regulates vegetation removal at the shoreline. Brian has provided valuable leadership in several public education initiatives that are aimed at providing property owners with the knowledge and information they need to be responsible stewards of their shoreline. Two years ago Brian authored a brochure for new property owners called "Did You Know" that outlined the regulations and guidelines that new property owners should be aware. The brochure was used in LOBA's Welcome Package program and received such rave reviews it was reprinted and distributed to all LOBA members last summer.

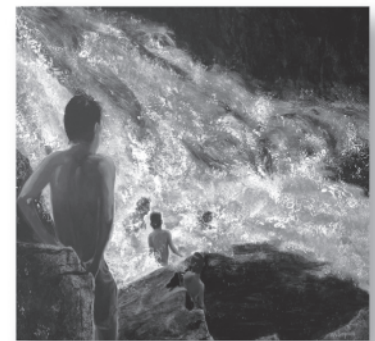
Brian was a high school geography teacher and department head for 31 years with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. He was part of a team that opened the first environmentally-themed high school in Ontario. Upon retirement, Brian and his wife Kathryn Thomson turned Kathy's family cottage on Dwight Bay into their permanent home. With a continuing interest in urban and rural planning, environmental issues and his personal experience with the Development Permit Bylaw when building his own home, Brian has been well-equipped to make a positive contribution to LOBA and the entire Lake of Bays Community. His friendly and positive attitude is appreciated by all who have worked with him, and we look forward to his continued involvement.

This prestigious award was established in memory of Betty Day, and exceptional volunteer who died of cancer in 1992 during her tenure as president of the Lake of Bays Association.

NEW FOR 2015 visual arts CONTEST



**SHOW
US YOUR
OTHER
STUFF
TOO!**



THEME:

'Inspired by Lake of Bays'

MEDIA:

Pastels, acrylics, oils,
water colours or mixed media
Contest is open to all LOBA
members and their families.

TO ENTER:

Artwork must be completed in the last 5 years (2010 or after) and submitted by the artist. One piece of art per person to be submitted in digital format to info@abengraphics.com before December 31, 2014.

The photo of the artwork must be high resolution (300 dpi or better).

Subject line of email:

LAKE OF BAYS VISUAL ARTS CONTEST

Include name and contact information of artist, media used, size of finished art, title and a few words about how Lake of Bays inspired the artwork.

This contest is separate from the LOBA photo contest.

**painting of the Oxtongue River by Allan Simpson*

ELECTION 2014 INSERT

Everything you need to know about the election



Vote-by-Mail Procedures

Vote-By-Mail kits will be mailed to eligible voters in Lake of Bays and Huntsville between September 26 and October 2. The kits will be mailed to the address on your property tax bill. The last day to return your ballot by mail is October 18. Voters can also drop off their completed ballots at the municipal office from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on voting day, Monday, October 27 (Lake of Bays Township office, 1012 Dwight Beach Road for Lake of Bays and the Town Hall, 37 Main Street E. for Huntsville). Questions? Contact the Township of Lake of Bays at: 705-635-2272 (www.lakeofbays.on.ca) or the Town of Huntsville at: 705-789-1751 (www.town.huntsville.on.ca).

Candidate Interviews

It can be a challenge for seasonal residents to make informed voting decisions because they may have not been at the lake to attend all-candidates meetings. At the time of publication, LOBA was making arrangements to video tape the Lake of Bays All-Candidates forum taking place on September 23rd. Please visit www.loba.ca for a link to the recording. To help members choose wisely, the Lake of Bays Association has interviewed all the candidates running for township council.

For our members residing in Huntsville (along the south west shore between Jo-Lee Point and Bona Vista), we have also interviewed those running for mayor and Brunel Ward in Huntsville.

Candidates were asked to provide personal background information before their half hour interview. During the interview we asked each of them to list their priorities, key initiatives and biggest concerns for the incoming council. The LOBA interview committee, (Ian Beverley, President, Gloria Woodside, External Affairs Chair and, Brian Simpson, Planning Chair, thank all candidates for participating in the interviews. The interview synopses below will provide some insight into what the candidates have to offer. Read them to help you choose who best represents your interests. Be sure to vote!

Who is Running?

TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS

All the current members of council decided to run for re-election, hardly surprising as council has just completed a successful term during which everyone worked cooperatively in managing the policy decisions and operations of the township. Councillors have generally been responsive to their constituent's needs, made well-informed decisions, and have been handling controversial decisions well. Three of the seven seats are acclaimed. Mayor Bob Young was uncontested and will be returning to lead Township council. Also acclaimed are District Councillor (Franklin/Sinclair) Shane Baker and McLean Ward Councillor Terry Glover. However,

providing voters with options is what an election is all about, so it is reassuring to see four contenders step forward as candidates for District Council and Ridout, Franklin and Sinclair Wards.

Mayor—Township of Lake of Bays

Robert (Bob) Young—INCUMBENT/ACCLAIMED

Background: Bob has been a year-round resident of North Portage Road since 2006 and, a part-time resident since 1958. He is a chemical engineer with 40 years experience working with Shell Canada and as an engineering consultant. He has been Mayor of the Township of Lake of Bays since 2010 and is a member of the District Airport Advisory Committee, Corporate & Engineering Services Committee and Solid Waste Financial Review Committee.

Town and District Priorities: (1) To initiate a review of the Municipal Act with regards to property assessment being the sole basis for collecting taxes; (2) To address the issue of inequities of District financing and how costs are shared. For example, how does the Muskoka Airport, which is a District expense, benefit Lake of Bays Township? He is concerned by the extent to which the townships subsidize the costs of towns like Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville as the Township is debt-free but the towns are not. He is concerned about District road costs and whether the Township could achieve overall savings by taking back servicing of non-series 100 District Roads; (3) OPP costs (also a District expense). Under the new provincial cost allocation model, policing costs reflect neither the actual service costs nor local needs. (4) The Township's Capital Asset Plan is under review to plan for funding needed to maintain and renew vital infrastructure such as service yards, offices and fire halls. Although current reserves (\$3 million) will cover some costs, Bob also foresees tax increases at the rate of inflation. He hopes to find efficiencies and savings through dual purpose buildings (eg. Dwight Community Centre/library/Township council chamber), and the amalgamation of fire halls.

Other Concerns and Initiatives: Bob is concerned with the governance model for district/regional governments and would like to consult with Queens Park to explore options for the relationship between the Township of Lake of Bays and the District of Muskoka. The current governance model will only allow for policing costs to be recovered through property tax assessment which places an unfair burden on seasonal waterfront property owners. He would like the District to be able to recover policing costs as a flat fee per household plus a fee for service. With regard to infrastructure improvements, Bob noted that grants are easier to get if the Township has a debt and that now may be the best time to borrow for a shared cost capital investment. He agrees rehabilitation of the Dwight public dock to accommodate the SS Bigwin is a project that might attract economic development to the hamlet.

Generally, Bob feels economic growth is limited by high energy and transportation costs, and a shortage of a local skilled work force. As mayor, Bob will be supporting policies that are science based, practical to implement, are economically sustainable and reflect a balance between environment and the economy. Regarding changes to the Lake of Bays Official Plan, he prefers one standard throughout the Township for development setbacks from the water's edge (20 metres) and will support changes to the Official Plan to allow for temporary use of RV trailers on developed lots. He supports reduced lots sizes in rural areas.

Why is he running? In 2010 Bob ran to create a contest and to give back to the community. For this term, he'd like to complete some key initiatives he has started.

District Councillor Franklin/Sinclair

Shane Baker—INCUMBENT/ACCLAIMED

Background: Shane is a family man who has been a permanent resident for nine years on Tasso Lake after 50 years as a seasonal resident. Prior to retirement he ran a sporting goods store in Waterloo, Ontario. He has served one term as Sinclair Ward Councillor and one term as Franklin/Sinclair District Councillor. He is a member of the District Planning & Economic Development and Services Review Steering Committees.

Township and District Priorities: (1) OPP cost increases—concerned about new OPP billing reform and District allocation of those costs to Township; (2) District infrastructure costs—road servicing, sewer and water (11 plants throughout the District); (3) District debt. The District was recently downgraded by Moody's in part because of provincial debt downgrading but he feels this is an issue to be watched as it does effect the cost to borrow and finance our debt load.

Other concerns: The towns within the District are the winners in terms of cost sharing for police, ambulance and solid waste disposal as they are subsidized by the taxes collected from the townships. He is concerned by the District's decision to reduce development charges as a means of encouraging growth. To enhance fair representation of towns and townships at the District, Shane advocates a change in representation so that there would be three councillors from each jurisdiction. He is concerned that the Township is being 'over-policed' as the basis for hiring is summer needs and does not reflect the seasonal variations in the number of residents. He supports a consultant study to consider the viability of a shared police force with Algonquin Highlands, Haliburton and Sequin townships. He acknowledges that affordable housing in Muskoka is hard to create but feels that stimulating the rental stock may be the most effective way to meet the demand and need. Co-operative housing should also be examined as a means for increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Why is he running? Shane enjoys helping constituents and feels he has the ability to make a difference and have a positive impact on the decision making of Township and District councils.

District Councillor McLean/Ridout

Robert (Bob) Lacroix—INCUMBENT

Background: A long-time resident of the Baysville, Bob is a survey technician and former District of Muskoka employee where he was in charge of recycling/waste collection and operations of District landfills and lagoons. He operates a landscaping business. He is a member of the District Community Services Committee and Services Review Steering Committee.

Priorities at District: (1) Affordable housing is needed to attract and retain young families who will provide the work and services needed to sustain the aging population of the District; (2) Build up sufficient District reserves to service and maintain existing infrastructure without increasing the debt load; (3) Look for increased funding options to sustain the continued operation of both hospitals in the region and to support the Dorset Nursing Station.

Other Issues: (1) Bob looks to planned growth as the best way to expand the tax base and increase the tax dollars needed to finance capital costs and reduce the financial reliance on waterfront property owners; (2) Bob supports an Official Plan policy change permitting the creation of smaller rural back lots as a means of lowering building costs so long as the cost of services is not increased; (3) He is concerned about growth of District infrastructure and the debt financing required (eg. he views the proposed High Falls Road bypass for Bracebridge as too costly and not necessary).

Why is he running? Bob is interested in resolving constituent concerns. There are many Township issues he wants to work on (Capital Asset Plan Review, Official Plan Review, Dorset Nurse Practitioner Station) and also District issues (policing, Muskoka Airport and active transportation).

Howard Rosenthal

Background: Howard is a retired Chartered Accountant with 14 years experience at a national firm followed by contract and consulting work. He is a seasonal resident but spends a significant time at Lake of Bays, so considers his residence on Hwy 117 between Dorset and Baysville as his home. He was a volunteer on the Ontario Disaster Relief Committee for Lake of Bays.

Priorities at District: (1) Decision making at District lacks structure and is unduly influenced by outside interests (eg. the PKF's Muskoka Tourism Resort Study lacked quality, and the District's Active Transportation policy for pedestrians and cyclists should have incorporated wide paved shoulders into their road plans); (2) District expenditures need cut backs by, a) eliminating unnecessary duplicated services between the District and Township (eg. Why is there such a large planning staff required at District?), b) consolidating and subcontracting of services, and c) making better use of technology to replace human resources; (3) Affordable housing should be focused on those young families who would be able to buy a home if both development fees and property taxes were reduced.

Other Issues: (1) Economic Development Strategy for Township should focus on what can be done, realistically over the long term; (2) A singular voice for Lake of Bays Township at District is

needed. Our three Township reps need to agree on presentations at District to realize Township goals at the District level; (3) Affordable primary housing in the Township can not be realized through reducing property lot sizes but is better solved by addressing the requirements of the job market.

Why is he running? Howard would like to see more qualified people on both Township and District councils. Howard wants to set the District and Township on a different course: less government, lower costs with more control over taxation.

Ridout Ward Councillor

Henry McLelland

Background: Henry has been a Baysville resident for 22 years. He is a retired carpenter and sheet metal worker. Henry has attended most council meetings for several years and is currently a member of the Official Plan Review Committee.

Township Priorities: (1) Road repair and maintenance. Township roads are poorly graded; (2) Control tax increases and audit allocation of hours in the township's work force to achieve efficiencies; (3) Human relations: make the service relationship between Township staff and the public more friendly and accommodating; (4) Reduce Development Fees in Lake of Bays to zero to make it less restrictive for business and residents to build.

Other Issues: (1) Back lot Development. He would support a reduction in back lot size to one or two to make housing more affordable; (2) Trailers and camping. He favours creating a by-law to allow trailers/RVs on vacant lots providing disposal facilities are used (resorts in particular could benefit from an expanded tourist clientele); (3) Lake health. He is concerned about phosphorus in lakes and supports the policing of a buffer zone in waterfront lots to mitigate impact of development on shoreline.

Why is he running? Henry wants to address those problems facing the Township that imply it is 'closed for business.' He wants to be an advocate for parks, public access to the water and to increase the supply of affordable properties.

Ruth Ross—INCUMBENT

Background: Ruth has lived and worked in Ridout Ward all her life and is well known to seasonal and permanent residents. She has been on council for 10 years and played a co-operative role in implementing the Dorset Area Community Development Plan. She worked with the neighbouring municipality of Algonquin Highlands to achieve a shared service agreement and build a more cohesive community identity with the proposed new service of a Nurse Practitioner Station in Dorset. Ruth works at Robinson's General Store. She is a supporter of small business in this area and has been an advocate for small cottage industries to compliment the tourist based local economy.

Township Priorities: (1) Bring gravel roads up to standards with ditching and upgrades in gravel to cope with weather related stresses; (2) Strategic Plan. Work with Township Economic Development Officer to see what works in other similar towns (partnership with Magnetawan) and sharing resources with

Dwight and Baysville to help them implement their strategic plan; (3) Empower the protection of shoreline restoration and revegetation efforts required by Development Permit System; (4) Work with the township's new Economic Development officer to attract low impact complementary business to the area and provide employment for youth; (5) Investigate the possible conversion of the Leslie Frost Centre into an independent seniors residence through a co-operative program with Haliburton.

Other Issues: (1) Back lot development. She is not in favour of permitting severance of lots smaller than current by-law requirement on waterfront back lots, but would consider smaller rural lots of two or three acres; (2) Trailers. She is not in favour of amending by-laws to allow permanent trailers; (3) Energy efficiencies. They can be gained through solar panel installations on Township facilities; (4) Incentives such as short term property tax breaks should be examined as a way to stimulate small cottage industry (i.e. less than five employees); (5) Township Capital Asset Plan. She would look for opportunities to reduce unnecessary Township assets such as the works garage on #117 but need to invest in needed assets smartly (eg. conversion of Township Council Chamber for staff office space and use Dwight Community Centre for council meetings)

Why is she running? Wants to keep the momentum going with Dorset community issues she is involved with and to ensure environmental protection takes precedence over development around Lake of Bays.

Sinclair Ward Councillor

Virginia (Ginny) Burgess—INCUMBENT

Background: Ginny lives on Bella Lake (27 years as a cottager plus 24 years as a full time resident). She is a real estate broker specializing in rural and waterfront properties, and has served as Township councillor from 2006. She has been an active volunteer worker in the community, serving in leadership roles with the Girl Guides of Canada, Home and School Associations, Bella-Rebecca Cottagers Association, Muskoka and Haliburton Association of Realtors and has served on a number of Township advisory committees including the current Official Plan Review committee.

Township Priorities: (1) Township Capital Asset Plan. Expenditures need to be prioritized on the basis of what needs to be repaired and maintained, and the long-term viability of essential community structures and infrastructure needs to be reviewed; (2) Drafting the Official Plan. The review process needs to actively engage the public in formulating the draft document and sufficient time is needed in the review process to ensure a more effectively run township in the long term; (3) The strategic initiatives for economic development in the Township were formulated through public input and they should continue to direct policy decisions. Libraries build and enhance the quality of life in our communities and their efforts need support.

Other Issues: (1) The Draft Official Plan could potentially expand the Development Permit System to rural areas throughout the Township and Ginny is concerned that efficiencies gained

in processing development applications may create unwanted stresses on the large lot landowners; and therefore she advocates a balanced cautious approach; (2) Affordable housing requires definition before drafting policy. Subsidized housing is better served in settlement areas whereas lowering building costs to make housing less costly for young families may be realized better through lowering development costs than permitting smaller-sized lots in rural areas; (3) Cellular and high-speed connectivity upgrades are essential, especially in the Sinclair area, to expanding the seasonal base of our economy. If more people can work from home in our Township, spending and employment opportunities in 'soft industry' jobs will increase with minimal impact on the environment while preserving our rural character.

Why is she running? Ginny would like to see the goals of the Sinclair Advisory Committee (a co-operative community improvement program) achieved through her championing efforts as a member of council. Because of her real estate background she understands the concerns and issues facing both long-time residents and those looking to purchase in the area. It has also enabled her to have a better understanding of the planning process, and how it directly affects the homeowner.

Irvine Payne

Background: Irvine is a third generation local resident who lives on East Walker Lake Road. He is a retired Bell/Nortel Technician and a local commercial pilot.

Township Priorities: (1) Broaden the tax base to keep taxes/assessments down; (2) Cut costs by reducing the number of wards and councillors (why does Sinclair need a councillor when there are so few residents?); (2) Policing. We are over-policed on lakes and a policing re-think is needed: maybe we should be subcontracting the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police rather than paying the high costs for O.P.P. (3) Reduce the duplication of services at the federal/district/ and municipal levels.

Other Issues: (1) Environment vs Economy. The tourism business is well suited to the area but economic growth requires a balance with the environment. He generally feels the environment is in good shape; (2) Seasonal fishing should be closed earlier on Lake of Bays for lake trout as the females are full of eggs; (3) Irvine would support a change in the Official Plan to permit RV trailers on vacant rural back lots; (4) Access to Crown Land is being restricted by private land owners installing fences and gates.

Why is he running? Being retired Irvine says he has time to listen and he is mindful of tourism potential in our area. He feels that his level-headed, common sense, and fiscally prudent representation at Township council will make a difference.

Franklin Ward Councillor

Brent Statten

Background: Brent is a Huntsville resident, camping and canoe enthusiast, graduate of Huntsville High School, general manager for Langford Canoe in Dwight and a wood-carving artist.

Township Priorities: (1) To engage constituents in their governance; (2) To improve the public's treatment by Township building staff and by-law enforcement officers so that applicants are treated with fairness and equality; (3) To reduce the control measures imposed by the Township's signage laws on advertising; (4) To have the Township actively support and welcome small business developments along the Hwy 60 corridor.

Other Issues: (1) Complaints over noisy boats and bear trespassing should be directed to elected councillors for resolution; (2) Environment vs. Economy. He believes current federal, provincial and township regulations offer sufficient protection to the environment and feels we need to encourage and support industry that is compatible with these protective measures.

Why is he running? Brent was encouraged to run by discontented Dwight business interests and local residents. Brent wants to improve communications with the Township for his constituents.

Nancy Tapley—INCUMBENT

Background: Nancy lives and works at the family-owned (three generations) Bondi Village Resort on Fox Point Road. Nancy is a Queens University graduate, has a background in tourism, a passion for Equine sports (she is a certified dressage and eventing coach) and is active on committees for cultural and eco-tourism in Muskoka. She is a member of the Huntsville Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce, co-chair of the Township's Heritage Advisory Committee, a freelance journalist and an advocate for nature education in local fauna and flora.

Township Priorities: (1) Township Capital Asset Plan: focus spending on maintaining the Township infrastructure (2) Roads: prioritize road maintenance work on the basis of need; (3) Waterfront protection requires follow-up inspections of building sites to ensure shoreline vegetation under the Development Permit System has been completed; (4) Township support of community-driven events is needed to encourage tourism across the Township (how can we make it easier/less expensive—eg. insurance requirements, work with our Economic Development Officer); (5) OPP costs will increase our taxes (provincially mandated) unless the Township can make budget cuts that are reasonable and affordable without the loss of essential services; (6) Commercial Resort Tourism. The driver of the Township and regional economy needs the Township to support local building industry in facilitating the refurbishment, re-purposing and redevelopment of commercial cottage resorts to meet the changing needs and market demands; (7) Cultural tourism needs to be promoted and expanded through such events as a Baysville Walking Historical Tour, arts festivals and cuisine fairs.

Other Issues: (1) Environment is the Economy. Nancy sees the protection of the environment as key to the success of the local economy and supports the Township's Development Permit System in balancing waterfront development with shoreline protection. She supports regulating gross floor area instead of footprint area to limit overall construction size of structures along the waterfront; (2) RV Trailers. She is opposed to changes to the Official Plan that would allow RV trailers on waterfront lots other than on a temporary basis (i.e. while a residence is under con-

struction). She is concerned about servicing and overcrowding issues that trailers and RVs can present; (3) Back Lots. Nancy opposes changes to the Official Plan that would reduce the permitted lot size for back lots behind waterfront lots as she is concerned that a “double-tier” waterfront could result, in a situation wherein backlot owners trespass on waterfront lots to get access to the waterfront). She would however, support the creation of smaller lots in rural areas.

Why is she running? She has the proven background, experience, and interest that enable her to offer a strong, educated and committed voice at Township council that will serve to preserve and engage the values and visions of the Township.

McLean Ward Councillor

Terry Glover—INCUMBENT/ACCLAIMED

Background: Terry is a Baysville resident and business owner (Fork in the Road).

Township Priorities: (1) To improve communications between Township building department, contractors and residents; (2) Township Capital Asset Plan Review should prioritize assets in need of repairs and finance on the basis of revenues and reserve funds available; (3) Use effective marketing to emphasize our Township is “Open for Business” and create a network of Township businesses to learn, plan and leverage offerings and capabilities; (4) The visual appeal of our communities could be enhanced if a Property Standards By-law was introduced.

Other Issues: (1) Environment vs Economy. Terry sees the environment as the key driver for tourism and is concerned with clear-cutting and insensitive development of recent cell phone towers on our local landscape; (2) Supports the creation of smaller rural back lots to make housing more affordable.

Why is he running? Terry enjoys problem-solving for members of his constituency.

HUNTSVILLE

This will be an exciting election for Huntsville. There is a three-way contest for both the mayor and councillor for Brunel, with no incumbents in either race.

Mayor of Huntsville

Scott Aitchison

Background: Scott is a real estate agent, raised in Huntsville, who attended York University, and was first elected to Huntsville council 20 years ago. He has served as District Councillor for the last two terms, is the Deputy Mayor of Huntsville and chairs the Town’s Planning Advisory and Sustainability Committees. He also sits on the District of Muskoka’s Planning and Economic Development Committee. He was chair of the 2010 Ontario Winter Games, co-chair of the 2012 Ontario Para Sport Winter Games and co-chair of the capital campaigns for both Algonquin

Grace Residential Hospice and Chrysalis. Scott is the treasurer of the Huntsville-Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce.

Town and District Priorities: (1) To exercise fiscal responsibility by not assuming debts for capital projects without a payback in savings or revenue; (2) Scrap the Muskoka Tourism Marketing Agency and replace it with an economic development corporation for Muskoka which could be partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to advocate for business opportunities and offer job training skills; (3) To minimize tax increases by setting clear priorities for the services needed over a 10-year capital spending period; (4) To have decision makers be mindful not only of the environment, but also be fiscally and socially sustainable (e.g. reduce the carbon footprint and energy costs for operating municipal buildings).

Other Issues: Scott wants to change the tone and culture for city hall employees by replacing the “culture of fear” with one of encouraged co-operation. He would like to work with community colleges in offering hospitality and forestry programs at the Waterloo Summit Centre and to make it a world-class centre for excellence in water quality.

Why is he running? Scott feels his experience as a leader on both the District and Town councils, his youthful energy and commitment to finding cost efficiencies and opportunities for economic growth make him an ideal candidate. He has worked with and learned from five previous Huntsville mayors.

Hugh Mackenzie

Background: Hugh served as Huntsville’s mayor from 2000 to 2006, and chair of the District of Muskoka from 1978 to 1980. Hugh is a family man and retired businessman (co-founder, CEO and majority shareholder of Enterprise Canada, a communications and public policy consulting firm, publisher of Muskoka Publications Ltd. and partner of Countryside Broadcasting Ltd.). He has served on the board of the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Chairman of the Huntsville Hospital. He is a recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for Community Service, served as president of the Huntsville Rotary Club and was co-founder and first chairman of the Huntsville and District Co-operative Nursery School (now in its 45th year).

Town and District Priorities: (1) Time to look inward, stabilize capabilities, evaluate infrastructure needs, and reduce debt loads at both the town and district levels of government; (2) Address the unnecessary duplication of services between the District of Muskoka, the towns and townships and assess the cost benefits of a single-tier government model by pursuing co-operative efforts between towns and townships to reduce costs and increase efficiencies (like the Huntsville Lake of Bays Fire Department); (3) Insist on more District accountability; (4) Seek more opportunities for building the local economic base and thereby encourage young people to remain in Huntsville as contributors to our future economic welfare.

Other Issues: There is a need to address OPP policing policy as being affordable to Muskoka and for the province to be cognisant of the seasonal nature of our policing requirements. There is a

need to adjust the planning decision model from one where councillors are adjudicators for exemption requests and ‘lets make a deal’ practices to one where council complies with planning policies as laid out in the Official Plan. Hugh has concerns over the growing gap between ‘have and have-nots’ and would focus the solution on improving the skill training of high school graduates through a community college co-operative working at the Waterloo Summit Centre. Hugh is concerned with the Deerhurst Village development project becoming nothing more than a means of selling real estate with no amenities being facilitated for the condo owners. He advocates the full bonding for each phase of development to ensure the town is not left a ‘white elephant’ of incomplete development.

Why is he running? He intends to stand for one term only in a transitional role for stabilizing growth using a model of public consultation and team management to make well informed decisions. He is well connected to all three levels of government, knows how to get results from government ministries and agencies for matters important to Huntsville and the District of Muskoka.

Tim Withey

Background: Tim has served one term of council for Brunel Ward. Tim is family man with a B.A. in Environmental Studies who owns a local insurance brokerage in Huntsville. He has been a resident of Huntsville since 1988. He has served on the hospital board for 20 years, the Fairvern Nursing Home board, Crime Stoppers Muskoka, and is on the Muskoka District Health Council. Most recently he has been chair of the Town’s Community Services Committee where he has worked within budget constraints without affecting service performance levels.

Town and District Priorities: (1) To encourage business and industry to locate here by increasing the skills of the job pool of secondary school graduates through the utilization of the Waterloo Summit Centre as a community college training centre; (2) To adapt new technologies to maintain our infrastructure to withstand the variations of climate change; (3) To update the Official Plan with flexibility in planning decisions that reduce the bureaucratic process; (4) To have an efficiency audit made of the governance model in Muskoka as a means of eliminating duplication and waste in our system and to rethink the benefits of a one-tier governance model; (5) To be mindful of the environment by protecting the watershed, reducing energy consumption and our carbon footprint, mitigate flooding, and reduce waste; (6) To formulate smart protocol and policy to control and harmonize the type of communication developments throughout Muskoka.

Other Issues: Tim would like to have the town council more actively engaged in the District’s governance by having District reports at each council meeting. He would like to see more services across Muskoka being coordinated under an independent authority to increase efficiencies and reduce District costs, like the Huntsville and Lake of Bays fire department.

Why is he running? Tim wants to keep the momentum going with proactive decision making.

Brunel Ward

Sue Ashley

Background: Sue is a former Royal Bank mortgage manager in Huntsville and current owner of an antique shop by the locks on the Muskoka River.

Town and District Priorities: (1) To make road maintenance a top priority; (2) Maintain the beautification program for the locks on the Muskoka River; (3) Develop a community action plan with the help of an Economic Development officer to attract middle income jobs; (4) Promote a sustainable economy with environmental protection that respects the property rights of home owners; (5) Ensure that rules and regulations for development are consistent and fairly applied.

Other Issues: The pool of affordable housing should be increased through the co-operative efforts of developers and contractors, and the stigma of illegal apartments should be removed to increase the number of low cost rental units. Sue would like see more ‘granny suites’ made available as housing units.

Why is she running? Sue says she has a reputation for getting things done and she would enjoy the opportunity to put this trait to good use as a public servant. She wants to represent the constituents of Brunel responsibly.

Dan Armour

Background: Dan has lived in Huntsville for 56 years. He is currently employed as an Operation Manager for Medavie EMS Ontario (the Ambulance service in Muskoka) and, has worked as a paramedic from the Huntsville station for 27 years. He has served on the Huntsville Fire Advisory Committee.

Town and District Priorities: (1) Infrastructure must be brought up-to-date. Roads in particular set the tone for the community; (2) Development must be monitored to respect, protect and sustain the environment; (3) Affordable housing is important for the area and economic development could be based on building needed housing projects.

Other Issues: None mentioned.

Why is he running? Council needs a new face and new ideas. Dan takes a proactive role in working with people.

George Young

Background: George grew up in Brunel ward, was in the radio and television business for 33 years, serving 28 years as a sports commentator and reporter with CBC. He represented Brunel for two terms and served a third term as a District councillor (2006 to 2010). He chaired the Economic Development Committee for eight years and was a member of Muskoka Tourism Marketing Agency.

Town Priorities: (1) To focus economic development on road improvement and infrastructure projects over a 10-year period; (2) To create reserve funds for short, mid and long-term needs; (3) To encourage job growth in fields which focus on the environment and natural resources.

Other Issues: George sees the aging population and growing need for home care as a responsibility of the province and the District of Muskoka. Affordable housing for young families with limited investment funds can be facilitated through land grants from the town and co-operative building efforts supplied by organizations like Habitat for Humanity.

Why is he running? George enjoys being part of the decision-making process. He hopes to initiate more tourism events and stimulate economic development opportunities to create meaningful jobs in the area.

UPDATE ON BUBBLER LIGHTING

Mike Wilmon, Township of Lake of Bays Building and By-law Enforcement Officer, gave us these photos of an Open Water warning sign at the location of a boathouse bubbler, which is in compliance with the new Outdoor Lighting By-law passed in October 2013, which prohibits outdoor lighting above the horizontal. The Township By-law department reports that it is working with local building suppliers to ensure appropriate lighting installations to mark bubblers are readily available, and a display at the Township office to demonstrate bubbler lighting options is in the works. LOBA will provide any further updates on our website www.loba.ca. A copy of the Dark Sky By-law is also posted.



A warning sign has been posted on the front of the boathouse. Note that a minimum amount of water is open around the boathouse.

SAVE THIS DATE

Lake of Bays Association Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

Baysville Senior's Centre

Lunch served following

Join us for an update on LOBA activities and other topics of interest to both seasonal and permanent residents. This is an open meeting to which our municipal and district elected officials and other lake association are invited. Information on guest speakers and the meeting's agenda will be provided by email and on the LOBA website www.loba.ca.



The light is angled down to illuminate the warning sign.

HOT TOPICS

Read about it at www.loba.ca

Changes being considered to the Lake of Bays Official Plan:

- A reduction in the required setback for shoreline development from 30 to 20 metres on all waterfront lots
- Reduced minimum lot size for rural and back lot development
- The expansion of the Development Permit System throughout the Township
- Permitting tents and RV/trailers on developed and/or vacant land

Tunnock Consulting, the firm hired by the Township of Lake of Bays to coordinate the Official Plan Review process, has published four Discussion Papers on these controversial issues, which have been posted on www.loba.ca. There will be public consultation (likely in October/November) and it will be up to the new council to vote on the By-Law Amendments to the Official Plan. LOBA's Planning Committee is following this process closely and providing input. Member feedback is welcome and encouraged. Please email us at info@loba.ca.

Policing Costs Expected to Increase in Muskoka

The province has announced a new billing model for police services to be effective January 2015. While the actual monetary impact on the District of Muskoka hasn't been determined, it is expected that policing costs will rise significantly. Go to www.loba.ca to read the announcement from the Ministry of Community and Correctional and the corresponding staff report from the District of Muskoka.

Advertise NOW in the 2015 Yearbook

10% Discount ads paid for by Dec. 31st.

The Lake of Bays Association Yearbook is our best known and most popular communication vehicle with our members. If you have a product or service of interest to our members, please consider advertising with us. Delivered to the door of 1,500 families, the book is a handy directory that is used throughout the year. In addition, all advertisers receive a free link from the LOBA website.

The 2015 Advertising Rate Card and Order Form are now on the website www.loba.ca. Place your order now and pay by December 31 to receive a 10 percent discount on all advertising prices. You can place your order online. For more information contact our Advertising Manager, Bryan Dearsley at bdearsley@live.ca.



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