



2018 Municipal Elections, Candidates' Questionnaire
Councillor Sinclair
Candidates: Rick Brooks, Norman Dyer, Gloria Schimmel

Click on any question to go directly to the answers for that question.

1. Why do you want to be a Township of Lake of Bays Councillor? Highlight work and community experience that has prepared you for this position and the skills you bring to the role.
2. What is your working style? Describe how you work to ensure productive discussion and resolution of issues and how co-workers and colleagues describe your working style.
3. Name three priorities for the Township of Lake of Bays and how you will address them.
4. How do you or will you balance constituents' interests and staff recommendations?
5. How will you work with the Lake of Bays Association, its members and other community groups?
6. How will you balance economic development and environmental issues?
7. What is your position on more clean energy projects in the Township of Lake of Bays?
8. Do you support or oppose the as-proposed development of Langmaid's Island into 36 lots, and two mainland parking sites? Why?
9. What is your position on funding for the day-to-day operations of the Township of Lake of Bays libraries in Dwight and Baysville? Highlight whether you feel the current funding level is appropriate, and if not, how would you modify it; as well as whether you support Township of Lake of Bays funding to expand the Dwight library?
10. What is your position on hospital reform in Muskoka and do you support maintaining hospitals in each of Bracebridge and Huntsville?
11. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too much funding? Why?
12. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too little funding? Why?
13. What ways would you work to increase affordable housing in the Township of Lake of Bays?
14. Complete this sentence. Vote for me because ...

Contact Information

1. Why do you want to be a Township of Lake of Bays Councillor? Highlight work and community experience that has prepared you for this position and the skills you bring to the role.

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>I believe strongly that I can make a difference. I have long been an advocate for partnering, working as a team for the good of the body. We cannot make headway in today's world by appearing divisive, hard headed or not willing to listen to a constructive critique. As for work and community experience, that has come in many forms, I have worked in and operated an architectural office for over 35 years, negotiated contracts, facilitated successfully mandated ratepayer/developer negotiations and been involved with projects all over Ontario. My community portfolio has commendations from both Oshawa and Port Hope, while sitting on and chairing municipal committees of council in both those communities and now proudly am writing my final chapter, here in Lake of Bays. I was Chair of the Heritage Committee in Port Hope, a founding member of the Northumberland Heritage Alliance and Chair of Doors Open Northumberland. I am a life member of Kiwanis International, a global service organization focused on serving children and as such have been successful in chartering this past year the first club in Muskoka. That takes teamwork, patience, passion and commitment. I don't just join a cause, I get engaged in that cause. I have been recognized for my involvement in ALS, Lung Association, Down Syndrome, Special Olympics and for over 15 years chaired the Simcoe Hall Food Bank in Oshawa. I am Queens Jubilee Recipient, Volunteer Award recipient, while more recently my involvement as a member of the LOB Heritage Committee and Muskoka Maple</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

<p>Festival has exposed me to the dynamics and opportunities that are here for us to expand on even more. In conclusion, I believe that I bring these tools and experience to council and a willingness to roll up my sleeves to work together as part of what I believe can and will be a vibrant new team for Lake of Bays.</p>		
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2. What is your working style? Describe how you work to ensure productive discussion and resolution of issues and how co-workers and colleagues describe your working style.

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>Firstly being a good listener...I am a detail person, I like to ensure that our working groups work smarter-not harder. As for my 'working style' and how a colleague would describe it, that's best answered by a colleague. I believe though that they would support my response. If I might, I could quote an excerpt from a letter of recommendation written on my behalf by the Mayor of the City of Oshawa, John Henry, now running for Region of Durham Chair. "Over the past 25 years, you have proven your ability as a leader in our community and have worked to improve the lives of many individuals, and families through your work."</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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3. Name three priorities for the Township of Lake of Bays and how you will address them.

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>Firstly, I would not be presumptuous to think that I will resolve these issues, but I can suggest that I will speak for their resolution and/or understand better why they cannot be done. We must agree, not every situation has a positive resolution, after all it has been now over 50 years since the Maple Leafs have won the cup. All kidding aside, as a Ward Councillor, I am on the outside looking in as it pertains to the District. However for me to be an effective advocate for change, my role needs to be seen by our new Mayor and District Coucillors as part of their 'team'. Too many times I have heard, "as a ward councillor that's not my job." I'm hear to tell you I will make it my job, to ensure that the issues relevant to my constituents will be heard.</p> <p>As for priorities; Roads...Emergency Services/health care and sustainable Wi-Fi and Internet are my three preferred priorities. Without these "essential services" in the 21st Century, we are not just going to stop growing, we will seriously regress. Our young people need good paying jobs, they need places to live, we all understand that, but they also need to know that we have that network of roads to get them to and fro - 12 months of the year, also that emergency and healthcare services are actually here for them to respond to their needs should that be necessary and thirdly, there is nothing more frustrating than someone trying to sustain a home based business when the internet is as fractured as it is throughout most of the Township.....those jobs could</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>

be the future of the Township, but not in this existing model.		
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4. How do you or will you balance constituents' interests and staff recommendations?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>That is quite subjective. The interests of some residents can be seen as 'silos in the snow', only pertaining to their area whereas we really need to look at the bigger picture. Part of that picture is listening to staff and other councillors. Having said that, after there is proper and thorough discussion, the right answer may not be the popular one. Should I believe at that point that we have done our do diligence and believe it to be the right call – I'll live with that and be prepared to defend that regardless of whether it goes against staff or the wishes of the constituent.</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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5. How will you work with the Lake of Bays Association, its members and other community groups?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
Without retracing my steps in the answer to #1, you have my answer....being a good listener, understanding the issues and encouraging a partnership mentality is something I try to bring to every table.	No response	No response
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6. How will you balance economic development and environmental issues?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>There is no soft approach to the environment, we only have one chance to protect our natural elements and if we squander that, our future generations will not have the opportunities that we had and fortunately still have. Given that reality, development is important for the growth of our population base, to ensure we are sustainable for generations to come. We need to ensure the tools are in place within the authorities having jurisdiction to guide us to sustain what we need and still allow enough growth to make us viable as growing communities going forward. Let me be clear, I support development, however, again I must dovetail that with the continuing plea for more of our essential services being in and visible in Lake of Bays. These advancements will go a long way to encouraging small businesses and an ever increasing home based business model to flourish in Lake of Bays, but again, being receptive to the needs and expectations of a healthy environment.</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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7. What is your position on more clean energy projects in the Township of Lake of Bays?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>I am a supporter of cleaner energy, but it has a cost. Personally my wife and I live off grid utilizing solar and not hydro. It was not cheap but its payback is - in time and no hydro black-outs, I support the use of solar and as a consultant am encouraging clients (commercial and residential) to consider off grid or even currently on hydro to consider it as a net-metering option. As for other forms, such as wind energy, I believe more research is needed before I'd support that in a large scale.</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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8. Do you support or oppose the as-proposed development of Langmaid’s Island into 36 lots, and two mainland parking sites? Why?		
Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>Do I support the development of Langmaid Island- YES.</p> <p>Do I support 36 lots and 2 parking sites NO.</p> <p>The issue is not to stop development, the issue is, in my opinion to ensure that all avenues for an integrated approach working in concert with the environment and the heritage and archeological aspects of the island have been taken into consideration.</p> <p>As I have shared already, we only have one kick at some things and we need to ensure we do it right, history has shown us in many situations where the hasty move was the wrong move. I am not a biologist or even a weekend scientist, but to me there has been some tremendous research done on both sides of this conversation, we believe that both sides need to be good listeners and be prepared to compromise, for the good of the future of not only the Island, but the Lake of Bays eco-system as a whole.</p>	No response	No response
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9. What is your position on funding for the day-to-day operations of the Township of Lake of Bays libraries in Dwight and Baysville? Highlight whether you feel the current funding level is appropriate, and if not, how would you modify it; as well as whether you support Township of Lake of Bays funding to expand the Dwight library?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>I am not currently on council, nor was I involved in any way with the funding formula for these facilities, but I can say that I do support their existence. They form part of the fabric of our respective communities. They are a gathering place for some and an escape for others, without their existence we are far less of a vibrant community. I understand that they are not money makers and although, in my opinion, should not be seen as essential services, they are important to the health of our communities and as such municipal funding of them is understood. Having said that, I believe that there needs to be additional consultation with library staff and their supporters on their fiscal responsibility. As for the proposed library expansion in Dwight, I am not conversant with the extent or direction of the discussions regarding the cost or model shown to support the need for this renovation so it would be inappropriate to comment either way at this time. My only takeaway in this discussion is the financial pie is only so big and residents need to understand that. Private fundraising is admirable and necessary in today's world, regardless of what community you live in, however to assume that matching dollars are a right to receive would be presumptuous when there are so many more life altering aspects of a municipal budget that need our attention.</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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10. What is your position on hospital reform in Muskoka and do you support maintaining hospitals in each of Bracebridge and Huntsville?		
Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
Muskoka is an ever expanding and developing region of varied communities, as such we need to be looking 10-20 years into the future and in doing so it would be irresponsible to assume that Muskoka can or should be served by only one hospital. I would suggest the 'two hospital' model is not recommending duplication of all services, however both should have emergency services. I would encourage the formula to consider each facility to specialize in selected areas of medicine and own that.	No response	No response
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11. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too much funding? Why?		
Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
The Fiscal budget, year to year, is very tight however is a large number for a township of arguably 3200 residents. The biggest concern in our budget appears to be the percentage that goes to the District, especially for Policing.	No response	No response
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12. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too little funding? Why?

Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>“Public Works” is an all encompassing phrase meaning a lot more than just roads but my focus would be roads. Staff can only do what they are directed to do, with the tools and money they are given to do it with, and perhaps therein lies the problem. We have many of our access, rural and arterial roads that were at one time certified as ‘up to standard’ but in the opinion of most who travel those roads daily, the answer is they would not pass today....why? In most cases they have simply not been maintained. Contrary to the ‘Road Needs Study’ ditching is not maintained, shoulders in some areas are non-existent and potholes seem to be addressed only after significant complaints are voiced. I believe that as our climate is everchanging, the types of road maintenance required is changing too, requiring more proactive thinking to prepare for those conditions and the funding in place to ensure the working residents and school buses are able to navigate those roads. As shared before, management and staff in our local businesses can not be cost effective if they cannot rely on getting to work in a timely fashion. We need the management and staff to have the knowledge base to understand the changing times and be able to convey that needed change onto their employees. At the same time, the staff need to have the tools and equipment at their disposal to be able to execute those tasks, efficiently and effectively, so subject to reviewing their current budget, line by line, I might suggest they need more funding.</p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>No response</p>
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13. What ways would you work to increase affordable housing in the Township of Lake of Bays?		
Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>'Affordable Housing' is an issue not indigenous to Lake of Bays, it is a 'District' if not a 'National' issue. In fact the District currently has some programs that we can pick up on or perhaps supplement, such as assisting developers and builders with incentives, or rent supplement programs and home ownership assistance. As a Township we can have our planners revisit our by-laws and make it known where zoning can or does exist that would support multiple family dwellings, we could even look at making it less restrictive on an owner living on a multiple acre property to have more than one dwelling, or at least a second dwelling. I realize there are many concerns that could and may be voiced with that approach but it does warrant exploring.</p>	No response	No response
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14. Complete this sentence. Vote for me because ...		
Rick Brooks	Norman Dyer	Gloria Schimmel
<p>I am local, my family has been in Sinclair Township since 1885. Yes, I was born in Oshawa, but grew up mostly here, as a cottager since the mid 1960's. My career has provided me with over 35 years of administrative experience as a consultant working with both the private sector and municipalities. I have had extensive board experience at the local, club, district and international levels. I have the reputation as an innovative problem solver, collaborator and consensus builder. I would be very pleased and honored to represent the constituents of both Sinclair and Finlayson Wards at Lake of Bays Council come October 22, 2018.....and would appreciate your support.</p> <p>Final thoughts; Many thanks to the executives and members of LOBA and the Chamber of Commerce for this opportunity to share my passion for serving as Councillor in Sinclair Ward. Thank you to all those tireless volunteers who are involved and engaged in ensuring this democratic process continues to flourish, your continued involvement is needed to ensure its perpetual success.</p>	No response	No response
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Contact Information		
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