



2018 Municipal Elections, Candidates' Questionnaire
District Councillor Franklin/Sinclair
Candidates: Martin Mann, Michael Peppard

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

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>I am seeking this position, to ensure that the voices of the people of the Township of the Lake of Bays District are heard. I will take this opportunity to simultaneously utilize my interpersonal and professional skills to benefit the public good. Throughout my term as the District Councillor, I will positively benefit the Township of the Lake of Bays community by listening to the comments, concerns, and interests of all residents. My experience as a successful business owner, has prepared me for this role by way of handling competing priorities, actively listening to customers concerns, and addressing them in an efficient manner. My experience with Easter Seals and Children’s Miracle Network fundraisers, Kiwanis Director and Presidency can also be considered of great benefit to me in this role. Additionally, as a former board member for the Pine Lake Committee, I am confident I will excel in this role. As a District Councillor, the Township of the Lake of Bays community will act as my customers, by way of actively listening to their concerns and addressing them in an efficient manner.</p>	<p>I enjoy community building and that, in my opinion, is one of the key roles of a municipal councillor. Engaging in your local community be it through work or volunteering or sports or business, it is important, whenever possible, to be a part of your community. It is really the only way you’ll know what is happening and how you can play a role in making your community better for everyone. I have only been in LoB fulltime for 7 years but the first thing I did when I arrived was volunteer. I volunteered a lot because I didn’t know that many people and it can take a long time to meet people and make friends no matter what community you end up in. So I volunteered for HOLD (Hilside/Oxtongue Lake/Dwight) right away. That is the fantastic group that raised the funds for the great electronic sign outside of township offices. Among many other great deeds. I have also worked and volunteered for the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, helping them to set up their community stewardship program at Marsh’s Falls and helped out from time to time with the great work of LOBA’s environment team. Beyond my volunteer skills I have had the pleasure of working as the Councillor for Ward Sinclair for a little over two years now. This experience, above all, has taught me about the challenges of making decisions on behalf of the public. Never an easy task. I am confident that I am now ready for the challenges of representing the interests of Lake of Bays at the District of Muskoka council table and I aim to do a very, very good job at it.</p>	

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.

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>My working style is dependent on the task at hand. For some tasks, I think working alone is more productive and efficient. For other tasks, however, working in groups produces far more successful outcomes. Whether I am working alone or in a group, I am deeply dedicated, self-motivated individual, that is committed to succeed in each and every project handed to me.</p>	<p>Having worked in the not-for-profit world for most of my working life I am most comfortable with consensus decision making. This of course can involve a lively debate from time to time which I never shy away from.</p>	
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3. Name three priorities for the Township of Lake of Bays and how you will address them.

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>My three priorities for Township of the Lake of Bays are as follows: Firstly, I plan to address the issue of affordable housing. I plan to do so by initiating more affordable homes throughout the community. I also plan to expand charitable organizations throughout the community such as Habitat for Humanity. By way of piloting an affordable housing initiative, this will align services that equitably serve all Township of the Lake of Bays residents while achieving cost efficiencies. Secondly, I plan to help small businesses, the backbone of the community succeed by way of providing them with the necessary resources to be able to do so. I plan to do this by finding ways to help the entrepreneurs (as I'm an entrepreneur myself) start business in the township like services for retirees, more tourism events would also help with this issue. Thirdly, I plan to address the issue of expensive high-speed internet. The internet is an essential service that connects Township of the Lake of Bays residents not only to others throughout the community, but also to friends and family all over the world. Having spoken to many businesses, residents from the city, they would spend more time here if we had high-speed internet, also benefitting others in the township and District, This would undoubtedly benefit business in the Township of the Lake of Bays.</p>	<p>Number one is providing the necessary services to our community that they need to live, work, or play in Lake of Bays. This includes very good roads, small businesses that are thriving and an environment that is preserved and protected to a very high standard. This part of the job is on-going. I plan to address it by making myself available at all time to meet with or speak to community members because that is the only way to learn what the real issues are in the community. I am also keen to continue my support for the work of our economic development coordinator and the work of the HOLD group. Number two is finding the right balance between development and the protection of our natural environment. I will address this issue in particular by using my background as a biologist to ensure that environment is always put first because a clean and beautiful natural environment is the reason most, if not all of us, are here. Number three is continuing the efforts of the current council to get a fair deal from the District when it comes to the taxes we deliver vs. the services we receive. Top of mind is the money we provide for policing in the District.</p>	
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4. How do you or will you balance constituents' interests and staff recommendations?

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
1. Actively engage constituents thus creating link between citizens and Township of Lake of Bays 2. Getting involved with local problems demonstrating ability to address real issues, benefitting community as a whole 3. Listening to the public concerns, conveying them and in turn responding to public need. 4. Ensuring that platform resonates with constituents reflecting relevant concerns. 5. Been a sounding board between staff and constituents.	By doing my homework. Our staff are excellent and very qualified at their jobs which means I need to step up to the plate as well and learn all that I can about every issue, challenge or request that comes from our constituents. In this way I can confidently voice my own opinion if at times it is at odds with staff recommendations.	
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5. How will you work with the Lake of Bays Association, its members and other community groups?

Martin Mann

Michael Peppard

I will work with the Lake of Bays Association, its members, and other community groups by way of ensuring all voices are heard and equally represented. I plan to do so by surveying residents in order to determine what is important to them. Additionally, I will come to meetings prepared, and with an open-mind, to consider all different opinions and recommendations. In order to ensure that the Township of Lake of Bays community stays informed and up-to-date, I will create a quarterly newsletter.

This is the part of my job that I enjoy the most. Volunteering with LOBA and other community groups is the best way to help in my opinion. By volunteering I get to help out in more than one way and hopefully learn something along the way.

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6. How will you balance economic development and environmental issues?

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>Through economic development more people would move to this area for retiring, and services like snow removal, maintenance, cleaning and much more. More tourism will lead to development of activities, events as people and retirees are looking for active lifestyles. This will also create jobs for the area.</p> <p>On the other hand the environment is important to the future of the area. We need to keep wetlands and work towards reducing waste and conserving energy. This infrastructure is in progress but will take time and teamwork to accomplish a better environment. We have to keep both sides of this issue in mind and balance both economic development and the environment equally.</p>	<p>Supporting passive tourism would be a good place to start. Hiking, canoeing, skiing and snowshoeing are all activities that promote a love of nature without harming it. All businesses in Muskoka struggle during the off season or shoulder seasons and the work of our economic development coordinator and committee will, in my opinion, help our community to draw in the tourists during the blustery months of November and our unpredictable spring. Our joint Chamber of Commerce also works tirelessly to address this challenge.</p>	
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7. What is your position on more clean energy projects in the Township of Lake of Bays?

Martin Mann

Michael Peppard

Although infrastructure is required to sustain this and we have started working towards this goal, much more infrastructure will be needed all over the area and province. My position on more clean energy projects is as follows. I think no pollution, no noise, as well as quieter and better, instant power is essential. This will result in increased potential revenue, reduced emission, and decreased operating costs. This will ultimately result in clean and portable accessible power.

I think that we have come a very long way in a short time period in terms of building up our green industry in the province including Muskoka. I am confident that the industry can support itself with the demand coming from individual households and businesses without the need for further large scale projects.

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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?

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>As this development is not part of my wards, I cannot comment on this issue at this time, however after reading up on this issue, I do have concerns regarding the number of lots vs. docking and believe that this project is still in the early planning stages.</p>	<p>I am opposed to the as-proposed development of Langmaid’s island and two mainland parking sites. To (roughly) quote a resident of Lake of Bays “the Official Plan does not encourage or support the construction of new lots on the island and in fact discourages it”. Why would I vote against our own Official Plan? Furthermore, it is impossible to protect the natural heritage features for which the island has been identified with the as-proposed level of development. Indeed is it possible that any development may compromise the natural heritage value of the island.</p>	
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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?

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
<p>These are complex questions about day to day operations, which are not common knowledge of the general public, in regards to the budget process and planning. Making decisions about these important funding allocations cannot be done unconsciously. All information required should be reviewed, to best allocate designated funds in these areas.</p>	<p>I am very much in support of our public libraries. When I first moved to Lake of Bays 7 years ago I did not have internet, I knew very few people and I found myself rebuilding my career from scratch. If it wasn't for our libraries the struggle would have been that much more difficult. Libraries are the hub of this and many other communities and give back twice as much to our community as we pay into them. I am very keen to assist with the fundraising efforts for the new expansion and I support the existing level of funding and would support a request to enhance it if needed.</p>	
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<p>10. What is your position on hospital reform in Muskoka and do you support maintaining hospitals in each of Bracebridge and Huntsville?</p>		
<p>Martin Mann</p>	<p>Michael Peppard</p>	
<p>It is important that a full sited hospital remains in both Bracebridge and Huntsville due to the vast geographic area that each hospital encompasses. This is essential due to the response time required in order to best serve residents. The distance and travel times between the two hospitals is concerning, as it may contribute to increased mortality in the Township of the Lake of Bays community. The economic impact behind closing one of the locations is substantial. Ultimately, by way of closing one of the hospitals, the health, safety, and economic well-being of the community will suffer immensely.</p>	<p>I am very much in support of the two hospital model in Muskoka. My list of reasons is extensive the most important of which is that lives depend upon it.</p>	
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<p>11. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too much funding? Why?</p>		
<p>Martin Mann</p>	<p>Michael Peppard</p>	
<p>Once again I am unable to answer this question appropriately as this information is not readily available to the general public.</p>	<p>None. I have been through a number of budget discussions and I believe that we run a very tight ship. I am concerned with the amount of taxes we pay to the District for one or two services but that is a different challenge.</p>	
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12. What area(s) of Township of Lake of Bays spending do you think is given too little funding? Why?		
Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
Once again I am unable to answer this question appropriately as this information is not readily available to the general public.	We really need to figure out the housing situation. Our small businesses employ people, young and old, who need to travel here to work and this is not sustainable. There has been some talk about public/private partnerships and I would be keen to explore and promote such opportunities if it means we can build some low cost housing in each of our communities (Dwight, Dorset, Baysville).	
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13. What ways would you work to increase affordable housing in the Township of Lake of Bays?		
Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
As one of my priorities for the Township of Lake of Bays, I plan to address the issue of affordable housing by finding areas for development of smaller homes, townhouses, semis, that would be more affordable to the lower income home buyer. I would also support reduced lot sizes in rural areas which would benefit the home buyer and the Township of Lake of Bays with increased revenue for taxes on property that otherwise would not have been developed.	Please see question 12.	
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14. Complete this sentence. Vote for me because ...

Martin Mann	Michael Peppard	
I want to be a voice for the public to implement change in Township of Lake of Bays and Muskoka for the better.	my only reason for doing this work is because I believe in building great communities.	
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