



**2022 Municipal Elections, Candidates Questionnaire
Township of Lake of Bays, McLean Ward Councillor
Jacqueline Godard (ACCLAIMED)**

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

1. What should the Township/Town do to reduce its carbon footprint and facilitate movement away from fossil fuels?
2. The Muskoka Watershed Council is recommending an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Muskoka which would require municipalities to base planning decisions on impacts to the entire watershed, not just the local municipality. Do you support this approach? Why or why not? How could this change planning decisions in the Township of Lake of Bays/Town of Huntsville?
3. What area(s) of the Township/Town budget do you think receives too much funding and why?
What area(s) of the Township/Town budget do you think receives too little funding and why?
4. There has been an increase in year-round use of seasonal properties due to the Covid pandemic, retirement, and other factors and trends. How should this affect municipal services such as roads and garbage, and other non-municipal services such as internet?
5. How should the Township/Town evaluate its Short-Term Rental Licensing program?
6. The Lake of Bays Association has identified several Election Priorities (see cover letter). What can the Association do to help council address any one or more of these priorities.

Township of Lake of Bays Candidates Only

In April 2022, LOBA sent a letter to the Township of Lake of Bays outlining our concern about variances on non-complying waterfront properties and by-law enforcement. In summary, the letter expressed the Association's concerns about a perceived trend in the number of variances being granted by Council on legal non-complying lots, particularly for increased lot coverage. The Association also expressed concern about by-law enforcement particularly regarding the unwarranted removal of shoreline trees and vegetation. The following two questions relate to these concerns.

7. When faced with planning applications, how will you work to achieve balance between the need to improve or replace existing structures and protecting the environment and character of the lake?
8. Do you support stronger enforcement tools and more assertive policies to deal with people who do not comply with by-laws, particularly the Development Permit System by-laws?

Contact and other information.

1. What should the Township/Town do to reduce its carbon footprint and facilitate movement away from fossil fuels?

Jacqueline Godard: The Twp. might consider 'no fossil fuel' furnaces for heating and encourage the use of geothermal installations in order to reduce its carbon footprint. Many of these 5,000 sq. ft. plus cottages have more than one furnace. The use of fuel-efficient generators should be encouraged. Also, I'd like to see a 'no idling' policy in place other than for vehicles used in emergency situations.

2. The Muskoka Watershed Council is recommending an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Muskoka which would require municipalities to base planning decisions on impacts to the entire watershed, not just the local municipality. Do you support this approach? Why or why not? How could this change planning decisions in the Township of Lake of Bays/Town of Huntsville?

Jacqueline Godard: Yes, I do support this approach because the Muskoka Watershed is linked from every point from the smallest rivulet onwards. This would make planning decisions more in keeping with our need for better stewarding and stop property owners from possibly redirecting/blocking watercourses and filling in low lying areas (subsurface watersheds) that offer up as drainage systems. The ecosystem is an important factor and with better planning decisions the components of all life will benefit from this.

3. What area(s) of the Township/Town budget do you think receives too much funding and why? What area(s) of the Township/Town budget do you think receives too little funding and why?

Jacqueline Godard: I do not think any area of the Townships budget receives too much funding. I'd like to see more funding in Parks and Rec for public dock improvements and public spaces. Some of our docks are very much in need of repair.

4. There has been an increase in year-round use of seasonal properties due to the Covid pandemic, retirement, and other factors and trends. How should this affect municipal services such as roads and garbage, and other non-municipal services such as internet?

Jacqueline Godard: Being in the snow removal business with over 100 customers we had noticed an increase in people staying here the entire winter and some have actually moved here full-time sooner than they had planned. This should not affect municipal services because we all should understand that this is Muskoka, not Toronto and our services are good given the area our Public Works staff have to cover working around the clock to keep our winter roads safe. As for garbage, all locals have used landfill sites for years so this shouldn't change. My concern was the increase in garbage. High speed is coming and we must all be patient seasonal or not. It is something we all share in the need for.

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5. How should the Township/Town evaluate its Short-Term Rental Licensing program?

Jacqueline Godard: The Short-Term Rental Licensing Program is a living document and as situations arise such as weekend rentals encouraging parties, we could place a minimum of say a week rental for a start. It's in its early stages so staff are taking notes along the way and an annual review might be a consideration.

6. The Lake of Bays Association has identified several Election Priorities. What can the Association do to help council address any one or more of these priorities.

Jacqueline Godard: For a start - continue to work together with open dialogue. The Official Plan is up for revision so I would encourage LOBA's involvement. I have raised a concern about changing vistas due to blasting and this will be brought forward by me. High speed internet is coming, but requires patience. You can advocate for this, but we are all doing this in one form or another. I've been in touch with Bell re my own residential area's needs and it's coming I've been told. Affordable housing is a District issue, but we are all concerned. Baysville would be the best area to support this given our water and sewage facilities, but transportation to jobs that are in the larger towns would be a problem since we don't offer a daily bus service.

In April 2022, LOBA sent a letter to the Township of Lake of Bays outlining our concern about variances on non-complying waterfront properties and by-law enforcement. In summary, the letter expressed the Association's concerns about a perceived trend in the number of variances being granted by Council on legal non-complying lots, particularly for increased lot coverage. The Association also expressed concern about by-law enforcement particularly regarding the unwarranted removal of shoreline trees and vegetation. The following two questions relate to these concerns.

7. When faced with planning applications, how will you work to achieve balance between the need to improve or replace exiting structures and protecting the environment and character of the lake?

Jacqueline Godard: When faced with planning applications I will continue to work with staff's recommendations while understanding that due to the hold up of our CPPS our hands are tied when it comes to some of these more challenging applications (non-compliant with 2nd story in footprint close to the shore). This new document has a lot of 'good stuff' and took a couple of years to create. I recall LOBA's involvement - having the opportunity to review and comment.

I too, have been observing the above-mentioned latest trend and have found realtors are using this tool when trying to sell an old cottage property. This doesn't help and particularly over the past few years. Planning consultants are becoming more daring and demanding due to pressure from their clients and asks are becoming more complex.

The Official Plan is up for revision in 2023 and I encourage involvement in this along with hoping a clear decision is made by LPAT on our CPPS that has been appealed by 2 parties.

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8. Do you support stronger enforcement tools and more assertive policies to deal with people who do not comply with by-laws, particularly the Development Permit System by-laws?

Jacqueline Godard: Yes, I do support harsher penalties and more assertive policies to deal with property owners who do not comply with our by-laws. Removal of structure/s or paying a fine is already set in place, it's just finding them or relying on reporting through our 'Report It' portal. Also, when landscapes are severely altered (vistas) and our shorelines are destroyed by having too many trees, shrubs and plants removed – I'm supportive of huge fines based on damage done. I'd like to see contractors more educated on the protection of large trees, drip lines and root systems along with architects designing builds to blend in and compliment the property not take over it.

Contact and other information.

Jacqueline Godard: This is my first term – 3 ½ years and I am looking forward to another 4 years serving. I am Co-chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Member of Operation Facelift (Baysville Community Centre's social area enhancement) and Council Rep for Economic Development. Outside of Councillor I am a director of Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Fdn., volunteer at local functions and events and presently assisting a local videographer on a special video promoting Lake of Bays distinctive features providing historical information and physical descriptions.

705-571-0605

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