



**2022 Municipal Elections, Candidates Questionnaire  
Township of Lake of Bays, Ridout Ward Councillor  
George Anderson (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?**

**George Anderson:** The Township has been proactively working on reducing its carbon footprint. Examples include upgrading HVAC systems, replacing lighting, exploring electric vehicles and most recently the impressive move to replace the Community Centre ice plant with a Geothermal system. I look forward to more! Additional areas for consideration could include: solar installations, re-exploring micro hydro, more electric vehicles/equipment, green building (carbon sequestering) fee reduction program, promotion/encouragement of “quiet” water sports, supporting local food production to reduce long-distance transport.

**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?**

**George Anderson:** I support this idea. Waterways and lands are all interconnected. We can step into our canoe and travel by water from Algonquin Park, through Lake of Bays, Lake Muskoka, to Georgian Bay and beyond. “We all live downstream”! IWMP planning will require lots of communication and a huge collaborative effort between communities and all levels of government. Science-based research will help to achieve balance, through a more biocentric approach, between the care of the natural world and that of human activity.

**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?**

**George Anderson:** Township services require tax dollars. There is a major increase in demand for service with the arrival of more year round residents. It is imperative that community voices are heard and that all budget decisions are well managed by Council. Important budget considerations include: climate change impacts on Municipal infrastructure, supporting our well managed public facilities, water and natural land spaces, maintaining excellent roads, supporting fire services, encouraging sustainable building practises/incentives, considering the possibility of mandatory septic inspections, continuing to investigate affordable housing options, providing additional by-law support (personnel/enforcement).

[return to top of document](#)

**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?**

**George Anderson:** The Township is certainly facing a major increase in demand for ongoing services: planning and building, roads, recreation facilities, libraries, fire and by-law enforcement. Improving internet service is always on Council's radar. Lake of Bays is changing. We are experiencing great benefits from our population growth and we are facing new service, education and enforcement challenges. Road use is on the increase bringing more surface wear, greater rates of speed and noise. Properties are being developed or redeveloped sometimes with urban build expectations. There is greater pressure on the environment. Dialogue addressing topics such as property mosquito fogging, micro plastics and off-road large motorized vehicle use is part of our growth as a Township.

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

**George Anderson:** I support the regulation of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) and the current administration of the by-law. According to recent data, there are 277 STRs within the Township. Applications are being received and are being processed. It will take time to license all existing STRs. Evaluation of the by-law should be ongoing throughout this next term of Council.

**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.**

**George Anderson:** Ongoing open dialogue is always appreciated. The following will outline some topics where LOBA and all associations can assist Council and the Township: continue to encourage adherence to building by-laws, champion more environmentally conscious builds, promote property septic inspections, continue with environmental care awareness campaigns, recognize and support Council with the ongoing challenge of making difficult decisions while balancing service delivery with property taxation.

[\*return to top of document\*](#)

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**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?**

**George Anderson:** Development and its impact is permanent. The current by-laws that form the basis for any structure improvement or replacement need to be upheld with site net improvement exceptions. Legal non-complying rebuilds should strive to maintain by-law size and height compliance, provide increased setbacks if possible, support vegetation buffers (I would support a 20-metre vegetation buffer change) and maintain by-law lot coverage. Site alteration and blasting must be kept to a minimum unless the proposed alteration benefits increased shoreline setback and vegetation buffer potential.

**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?**

**George Anderson:** Strong enforcement policy and tools are essential to ensure by-law compliance. Should we further explore the concept of securities for site plan control? The AMPS by-law is a great addition to by-law enforcement. As mentioned earlier, future budget discussions should consider how the Township will further support by-law personnel and enforcement.

Contact and other information.

**George Anderson:** Appointed in 2019 for a three-year term.

[GAnderson@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:GAnderson@lakeofbays.on.ca); 705-789-6140

[return to top of document](#)