

## 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 handling controversial issues 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 Bay**

#### **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 after 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 served on the Ontario Disaster Relief Committee Volunteer 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) Rural lot Development- he would support a reduction in rural lot size to one or two to make housing more affordable; (2) Trailers and camping – favors 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 re-vegetation efforts required by Development Permit System; (4) Work with the township's new Economic Development officer to attract low impact complimentary 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 favor 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- not in favor of amending by-laws to allow permanent trailers; (3) Energy efficiencies - 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- 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 - 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 – 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 construction). She is concerned about servicing and overcrowding issues that trailers and RVs can present; (3) Back Lots – Nancy opposes to 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.