



Sept 2014

Special Fall FMLA Newsletter: 2014 Municipal Election

Election Day is Monday, October 27th and this is our opportunity to have a significant impact on the environment and quality of life around Four Mile Lake for the next four years. This is our chance to be heard!

We are all entitled to vote for the office of Mayor of Kawartha Lakes (CoKL) and for the Councilor of Ward 3. As a group, we have a significant impact on the outcome of the election. Four Mile Lake has over 800 qualified voters – a quarter of the Ward's electorate – and an even higher proportion of the total tax base.

Your FMLA Board of Directors recently developed a candidate questionnaire that addresses issues identified as important to residents of Four Mile Lake. The questionnaire was sent to all Mayoral and Councilor candidates and their responses are included (unedited) in this special newsletter.

The FMLA will not be endorsing any candidates. These responses are being collected solely to assist you, our members, in making an informed electoral decision.

As was the case in 2010, votes in this election will be cast by a mail-in ballot, which you should be receiving shortly. Included in this newsletter is a Q&A with important information to assist you in casting your ballot. This information is also posted on our website www.fourmilelake.ca and on the CoKL website www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca

Please read the information provided. And, most importantly, please vote!

Sincerely,

Rob Sylvester

President, FMLA

Candidate Questions:

FMLA Question #1: The current Township of Somerville By-law 95-20 (amended by By-law 97-12) regulates the use of the public boat launch on the east side of Four Mile Lake. This is an important issue to FML residents. Do you support the maintenance of this By-law as it is currently written and its continued enforcement?

[Note re Jim Greensides (Ward 3 Councillor): This candidate has recently withdrawn from the Ward 3 race for personal reasons.]

Hafiz Makani (Ward 3 Councillor): I have read the by-law and understand the restrictions for launching of the boats. In my view, we need to find a compromise and make a decision based on it and that works for all concerns but not to forget the safety of the children and swimmers.

Gord Miller (Ward 3 Councillor): Yes! This issue was brought before council and the present By-law was approved unanimously. There is no reason to change what works well. The water quality of the lake, the peace, tranquility, and the cottage experience is far too important for residents and visitors to this beautiful lake

Bill Denby (Mayor): I would enforce the current By-law.

Andy Letham (Mayor): I support the by-law as it is currently written and its continued enforcement. Restricted times for boat launching in the summer allows a safe swimming area and I feel it is a great example of the city and a local association working together.

John Macklem (Mayor): I have requested the complete bylaw for review but initially I see no reason for change and thus continued enforcement is appropriate, unless issues arise that need to be addressed by your association and council.

Donna Villemaire (Mayor): Yes! I support it and its enforcement and see no reason to change what works well!

Brenda Lee Karagiannis (Mayor):

I fully support any existing by-laws if they are currently working. However, if there are any concerns or issues with the current by-law then I support a full public review.

FMLA Question #2: The City is finding itself under increasing financial pressure. What specific recommendations do you propose toward achieving a balanced budget going forward?

Hafiz Makani (Ward 3 Councillor): To ensure a balanced budget for the upcoming years, proper allocation of funds needs to take place. This includes, using funds for necessary projects and services that are beneficial to the community and its citizens rather than project that are not of high importance and do not have a positive impact if implemented. We need to reconsider our strategic plan and look at the needs of the people. We as a council should work together as a whole and develop a responsible budget in order to maintain reasonable taxes and to maintain our infrastructure for our residents.

Gord Miller (Ward 3 Councillor): I will actively encourage staff and Council to lobby the Province and exploit funding opportunities that may arise. I will continue to work with our staff to find efficiencies through the Lean Sigma Six program that is proving to be extremely successful in identifying waste and inefficiencies in the way the City does business.

Bill Denby (Mayor): i would bring in a number of changes to control spending and 0 tax increases in the first month of office eg. Wage and tax freeze ,work fair for people on assistance ,move to one police force o.p.p. i have 32 points in my platform that will be implemented

Andy Letham (Mayor):

- must work with the province to secure stable funding
- must stop trying to be everything to everyone and narrow our focus on the priority delivery of services
- find efficiencies in the way we deliver services
- improve the development process to promote responsible growth

John Macklem (Mayor): We need to expedite and implement as soon as possible, an analysis of all spending and continue to seek savings while maintaining and/or improving the services provided. On a significant cautionary note, we are facing union labour negotiations for all contract renewals. CUPE, etc.

Donna Villemaire (Mayor): Our relationship with the province is more important now than ever before. I am an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario which gives me access to other municipal leaders and a venue to lobby support for our need

for funding from the province As for the budget, my main focus will be to continue and enhance our current cost-saving review, which has already identified more than \$3,000,000 in savings by being more efficient in the way we do business.

Brenda Lee Karagiannis (Mayor):

We need to increase our commercial and residential tax base to effectively supply new revenue to grow our city. We can't expect current citizens to carry this load all by themselves. Thousands of people are looking to move to our community either as a place to live or retire. This activity will create new markets for existing and new businesses as well as finance the increased infrastructure required to make this dream come true!

FMLA Question #3: What is it about your background that uniquely qualifies you as the candidate of choice for Councillor/Mayor?

Hafiz Makani (Ward 3 Councillor): I have been apart of Ward 3 for 17 years and have been resident in the City of Kawartha Lakes for over 22 years. I opened up a franchise in Kinmount, Shop n Save, alongside my wife Shelina. Over the years, I have been heavily involved with the Ward 3 community; whether it is contributing to various organisations or just having a cup of coffee with a few Ward 3 citizens. I have been involved in the City of Kawartha Lakes Accessibility Committee for 2 years. My experience in Ward 3 will enable me to work efficiently for the community.

Gord Miller (Ward 3 Councillor): Since returning to the Kawartha's five years ago, I have been active in the Community as President of the Cedarplank Cottager's Association, the Academy Theatre Board, Chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee, and served on the Baddow Community Centre Board. I have many years of successful business experience, and own and operate a Human Resources Consulting business in the area. I understand the importance of listening before talking, and I want to serve the residents of Ward 3 and the City to the best of my ability, and contribute to making it a great place to live and work.

Bill Denby (Mayor): i own 7 businesses in kawartha lakes ,2 in usa and have interests in 2 in china the city of kawartha lakes needs to operate like a business!

Andy Letham (Mayor): As a successful business owner and current manager of the Lindsay Fairgrounds, my proven track record of success and

leadership skills is best suited for the challenging role of mayor. I have a quiet but firm leadership skill and am very respectful of others opinions. The next mayor is going to be required to meet with many organizations and staff and get everyone on the same page. Leadership will be the key to success.

John Macklem (Mayor):

- a. An experienced professional accountant and financial officer starting at Imperial Oil, then Dome Petroleum in Calgary and then in Toronto with the Muscocho Group of Companies.
- b. As Chair of our former 23 member County of Victoria Council I have a proven track record of success in municipal government.
- c. Then 'A SUCCESSFUL' self employed owner of 'Town & Country Custom Kitchens' for 10-12 years
- d. Next followed by 12 years in local politics as Councillor, Reeve and Warden, then member on the transition board appointed by the Province and now as City Councillor, Ward 1, since 2010.

Donna Villemaire (Mayor): We have important issues and a very new Council coming in. We need a strong, experienced leader at the helm as Mayor. I have been a Councillor for more than a decade. I have more experience than any of the other candidates so do not need to spend time learning the ropes or re-inventing the wheel. I am the only candidate to include farming, health care, and youth in her campaign platform. I care about helping people and building all of our communities in the City. I am ready to be Mayor!

Brenda Lee Karagiannis (Mayor):

- An Experienced & Successful business leader who is Accountable as CFO of Trinity Taxi and Livery Services and CEO of Pinpoint Credit Solutions Inc.
- An Experienced proven Leader and team builder who is open and transparent.
- Experienced in advising council on Business Development
- Experienced and committed to manage Growth and Development in the City of Kawartha Lakes.
- Experienced in working within budgets and is Financially Responsible.
- Experienced and a Proven Manager of physical and Human Resources.

FMLA Question #4: If elected, what is the single biggest thing you hope to achieve as CoKL Councillor/Mayor over the next 4 years and why is this important to FMLA members?

Hafiz Makani (Ward 3 Councillor): The biggest thing I hope to achieve is the reconstruction of roads, and environmental upkeep regarding the waterways and to familiarize myself and work to endorse the lake management plus plan. My goal is to work for the community to create a better tomorrow. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success!"

Gord Miller (Ward 3 Councillor): I want to focus on finding efficiencies to keep taxes as low as possible for FMLA members and all other taxpayers of the City. Finding efficiencies not only saves money, it enables us to do things differently, more effectively, and opens our minds to new ideas that might work better. We will be successful at this by working closely with the Waterfront Associations, Business Interests, multi-Government levels, and area Residents. The CKL Lean Six Sigma Efficiencies program has already saved a great deal of taxpayer money - it will be important to continue this and enhance this good work further.

Bill Denby (Mayor): if i am elected as mayor ,my number one issue is to pay off the 100 million on the books and build reserves ,proudly be able to say welcome to kawartha lakes ,the fastest growing community in all of canada !we are now open for business ,also this is the play grounds of the kawatha's for tourism and investors ! Welcome we are here to serve your every need ! Thank you again for your questions and i look forward to serving you as your mayor !

Andy Letham (Mayor):

Over the next 4 years, make the municipality leaner and more efficient.

- involves a better work environment for our staff
- challenging staff and council to find better ways to deliver services
- changing the attitude to be more open and welcome to new development
- important issues for all residents with the limited tax base we have to draw from.

John Macklem (Mayor): My goal is a sound financial plan for the City, including a plan for our debt to be retired in full! This is the only way each CKL property owner can be assured their tax dollars are controlled and affordable going forward!

Donna Villemaire (Mayor): A hallmark of my campaign is to increase public input into Council's decisions. This includes waterfront associations such as FMLA members. We need consultations that are meaningful; not

last minute with pre-determined results. As Mayor, I will work to create actual community councils to give residents a stronger voice in the many communities of our City. This is important to FMLA members as they will have more opportunities to provide input, be heard and engage in local decision-making by the City on important issues like area-ratings, water flow and aggregate development.

Brenda Lee Karagiannis (Mayor):

- Economic Development - Supporting local business, attracting new investments and new industry.
- Quality of Life - A healthy, family friendly Kawartha Lakes with affordable housing and well maintained public spaces and programs.
- Accountability - Regain fiscal accountability and management of city finances.
- Tourism - Ensure that Tourism remains a primary economic driver and a vital part of our community

For more information on the above candidates, their contact details can be found on the CoKL website at:

www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/city-hall/office-of-the-city-clerk/election/list-of-certified-candidates

Voting Q&A

1) **When is the 2014 Municipal Election?** The 2014 municipal election will be held on Monday, October 27th, 2014.

2) **Who can vote?** You are entitled to vote if you are a Canadian citizen, are at least 18 years old and you own/rent property in the City of Kawartha Lakes (CoKL) or the spouse of the owner/tenant of a property in CoKL. The voter's list is compiled by MPAC records. You can check if you are on the voters list by calling any Municipal Service centre, accessing the City website or by searching on **<https://www.voterlookup.ca/>**

3) **How do I vote?** The 2014 Municipal Election will be conducted using a mail-in ballot. Mail-in voter kits will be mailed to all electors on the voter's list. You should receive your Voter Kit by October 10. If you do not, contact the Election Office at (705)324-9411, (ext 1255 or 1262) or by email at **election@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca**

- Simply follow the instructions inside your voter kit and **MAIL** the completed ballot to the City of Kawartha Lakes Election Office **no later than October 17th**. No postage is necessary if mailed in Canada.

- **Electors are strongly encouraged to mail in their ballots**, however, electors may hand-deliver their completed mail-in voter kits during normal office hours at the Municipal Service Centres located in Omemee, Bobcaygeon, Coboconk, Kirkfield, Bethany or Lindsay (including City Hall). Specific addresses/contact numbers for these centres can be found on the CoKL website at:

<http://www.city.kawarthalakes.on.ca/residents/service-centres>

- Any mail-in voter kits not mailed by the elector prior to October 17th should be hand delivered to City Hall or any of the Municipal Service Centres to ensure it will be received in time for Election Day.

On Election Day, October 27th, 2014, the Victoria Park Armoury in Lindsay and the Fenelon Falls Seniors' Club will be the only locations available to hand-deliver completed mail-in voter kits. Note that there will be no traditional voting stations to cast ballots on Election Day.

- If you do not bring the voter kit that was mailed to you, you will then have to complete a form, show identification and make a solemn declaration that you have not voted before. This could result in line-ups and time spent which could be avoided.
- As the City of Kawartha Lakes is using mail-in voter kits, there will be no advance voting dates or proxy voting.

4) What is in my voter kit and how do I complete my ballot?

- A Ballot
- Voting instructions
- Voter Declaration Form
- Secrecy Envelope (white)
- Postage-paid reply envelope (yellow)

Tips for Completing your Ballot (see accompanying pdf file for visual instructions):

- Preferably use a pen with black ink to mark your ballot
- Do not write anything else on the ballot, or secrecy envelope.
- Insert the completed ballot in the secrecy envelope **AND SEAL**. Only include the ballot in the secrecy envelope.
- Sign the Voter Declaration form and detach from instructions. **DO NOT PLACE THIS FORM IN THE SECRECY ENVELOPE.**
- Place the sealed secrecy envelope and the completed voter declaration form into the return envelope. (only one secrecy envelope per reply envelope).
- Ballots have been prepared for counting on electronic equipment and should not be folded in any manner other than as originally creased

5) What if you do NOT receive (or lose) your voter kit? If you do not receive a mail-in voter kit by October 10th, or your voter kit is lost, damaged or destroyed or please contact the City of Kawartha Lakes Election Office during regular business hours Monday to Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (705)324-9411.

One of the reasons you may not receive a kit is that you are not on the voter's list or that your mailing address is incorrect. You can correct either of these problems by calling the Elections Office (above) or by accessing the CoKL website.