



## Key Questions for North Frontenac Municipal Candidates

### Who we are

The North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA) is a coalition of 20 Lake Associations representing the interests of waterfront property owners broadly across the Township, and with membership comprising 59% of these property owners. The NFLAA was established by volunteers to provide representation, assistance, and leadership on shared interests.

Our main goal is to help lake associations in North Frontenac protect and enhance their environment and maintain the quality of water in our lakes for future generations.

Given that the NFLAA often works closely with North Frontenac Council, we are keenly interested in the candidates' positions on key strategic issues that are closely linked with our mission.

### Questions for candidates: **ROY HUETL, NF Ward 2, Responses highlighted in blue**

#### 1. Working relationship

Given the significant number of lakefront property owners who belong to NFLAA, how do you propose to resolve common issues and provide us a platform for our voice? How would you propose to engage with Lake Associations to understand their concerns? What steps will you take to foster this approach?

As president of the Buckshot Lake Association and as a member of the NFLAA, I understand that the NFLAA represents a large portion of our community. I anticipate that I will continue to volunteer as president of my association and attend NFLAA meetings.

The relationship between these associations and Council is critical in order for these property owners to be heard. I have always practised open and ongoing communication in my career and committee work. I would encourage all residents, businesses and associations to contact me through email or by phone. To further develop this relationship, I would suggest representation from Council at each NFLAA meeting, followed by ensuring that concerns are brought back to Council. I would also welcome invitations to AGMs from individual lake and property associations to participate in discussions regarding suggestions and concerns.



## 2. Mandatory Septic Inspection Program

Because of the critical importance of septic maintenance programs and the impact on the quality of water, this is a topic of vital importance to the NFLAA. Will you work with the NFLAA, MVCA and the council to implement a septic inspection program for lake front properties that defines when a mandatory assessment will be required? Eg sale of lakefront property, age of septic system, time since last inspection etc.

As a former Director of Water and Wastewater Operations at the Regional Municipality of York, and as a current member of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Committee (part of the MVCA), I fully understand the need for mandatory septic inspections. This of course would start with an education program for septic owners and users. Knowing the limits of what can be put into a septic system is vital to the functionality of the tanks and leaching beds. The education program would also inform owners about routine inspections that they should perform by checking for odours and any visual pooling in the area of the leaching beds. It should also recommend a scheduled tank cleanout of every 3 - 5 years, depending on use.

Next, prior to mandating septic inspections, I would request that township staff research and provide a report regarding best practices, costs, and funding options. On April 29th, 2022 a motion was presented to have the Public Works Manager create a report regarding mandatory septic inspections; however, it was voted down in a recorded vote (both Councillors Martin & Hermer, representing Ward 2, voted against staff preparing this report).

I believe mandatory inspections should be required and performed by licensed technicians on a regular basis, however this interval would be directed from the staff report. This is a proactive approach to protect our environment, and the health of our residents.



3.

### Short-term Rentals (STRs)

The NFLAA is part of a committee made up of Council representatives from four municipalities including North Frontenac. This committee has now produced a Report on Short-term Rentals which recommends a tiered approach to the regulation of STRs (the more you rent, the greater the degree of regulation). The NFLAA is urging North Frontenac to act on this issue. Given the impact on environmental quality and other issues such as protecting small residential cottage communities from incompatible land use, we are concerned about the impact of STRs on the lakes.

How committed are you to enacting a Bylaw on Short Term Rental? What specific next steps and time frame are you willing to advocate for?

Short-term rentals are becoming an issue in all areas of the province. Many municipalities have already initiated bylaws.

When creating such a bylaw, we need to ensure that it is targeted to behaviours which have demonstrated no concern for the environment or the surrounding neighbours.

I am pleased that Council is engaged with the NFLAA on this issue, and has reviewed the NFLAA report; however, I recognize that there is still work that needs to be done with the new Council. If elected, I would like to prioritize this issue so that a bylaw can be approved and in place for next year. There would need to be sufficient time for owners of rental properties to adjust to the new regulations.

Another aspect that will need consideration would be enforcement. Looking to other municipalities for ideas of best practices is recommended. I also believe that North Frontenac Council would benefit from a review of our need for a bylaw enforcement official.



4. What are your top three priorities coming into this role?

- The most important policy that a municipality has is its annual budget. For this reason, being a new councillor, I would spend time reviewing the current budget, so that I am well versed when approving new budgets.
- Going hand in hand with budget planning, another consideration is prioritizing the cost for mandatory septic inspections. Given the results of the April 29th, 2022 vote declining a report by staff for this program, I believe that it may be difficult to gain enough support on Council to have the motion pass. However, I believe with my experience and knowledge related to municipal wastewater operations, I would be able to debate and convince Council of the benefits and importance this program will have.
- As a new councillor it is important that I understand the needs of all residents and businesses. It will be a priority of mine to engage with all stakeholders in Ward 2, who I represent, while also listening to the concerns of others within the community as a whole. Municipal government plays such an important role within the community and it is imperative that local government remains engaged with the interests, concerns and needs of everyone. It is a balancing act; however, with my previous experience working in a municipal environment, and with my Masters Degree in Public Administration, I feel prepared to face this challenge.

September 2, 2022