

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present my hopes for the coming four years, and let me start this response by saying that while I may be new to the political landscape in North Frontenac, my family has roots here that are very deep. My family has maintained a property in Ompah since the mid 1920s, and I spent every summer and nearly every weekend on our rivers and lakes, and my love for them is very, very deep.

In regards to your first question, I hope to establish a new committee at the Township level which would focus solely on the preservation of our lakes and rivers, working directly with the Conservation Authority and the NFLAA. Council must be made aware in the quickest of fashion of any threats to our waterways, and the people who live and cottage on them of course will be the most in touch with their health.

I would hope to be given the chance to work directly with the property owners and Lake Associations on a personal level to hear both their concerns, and their input on how best to solve the issues ahead of us. I believe in a human approach to problem solving, and believe that the best resource our lakes and rivers have are the people who already do their best to support them.

As for the Mandatory Septic Inspection Program, I would echo my sentiment that the property owners on our waterfronts are likely the best resource we have for protecting them, and would certainly do my utmost to work with both associations to find the best and least costly solution. I believe the age of the septic system should give a clear indicator as to when an inspection may be required, and would work with the property owners to find a comfortable threshold for age. In addition, I believe when a property is sold an inspection would make sense, just as any other part of a property or building is inspected for safety.

And to the point of the cost of the inspections, I will also answer your third question on the Short-Term Rental By-Law that I believe is something that should be voted on and put into practice as soon as possible by the new Council.

I do support property owner's right to use their property in the ways they best see fit, and do as well support Short-Term Rentals as a viable sector of our eco-tourism. However, I believe that a tax should be levied, increased by the frequency of rentals throughout the year, just as any business should be expected to pay. From this tax I believe a bulk of it should be put into a discretionary fund, administered by the committee I mentioned in my first answer, with one of the funds goals being offsetting the cost of inspections with the end goal of keeping our water safe and healthy.

I believe that the by-law should be one of, if not the first priority of the new council, both for the sake of our waterfronts as well as making the rules clear for those who rely on the income from their STR properties.

My hopes for the coming 4 years are fairly simple, and I hope are in line with the residents of Ward 3 and North Frontenac at large;

-I hope to promote safe and clean eco-tourism in the Township, thereby creating more work for residents and allowing us to share safely the beauty of North Frontenac with everybody. And at the same time find ways of enforcing policies designed to minimize the impact of said eco-tourism to the satisfaction of our property owners.

-I would like to focus a good portion of my efforts as well to something I care very deeply about, which is the growing food scarcity in the region, caused by international shortages, rising fuel and food costs, and a lack of initiative to solve the issue from previous councils.

North Frontenac has a great many food producers, from ranches providing meat and dairy, to hobby farms producing fresh vegetables and prepared products. We have honey, and maple syrup, and countless other wonderful bounties produced right here, locally, and I hope to find an adequate system to enable those producers to safely sell their products.

-Lastly, I believe a focus needs to be given to the retention of our young people, because as our population increasingly is outside of the working age, services will become more scarce, and quickly more expensive. The people who were raised here in North Frontenac know it's shores and it's forests and I hope to find a way to keep them here protecting them, or bringing them back with their experience and knowledge gained elsewhere to continue keeping our lands and waterways beautiful for generations to come.

I invite any member of the NFLAA to reach out to me at any time with ideas or concerns or just to chat, I'm always available at any of my listed channels.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to introduce my hopes and goals a little to your membership.

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