

Drummond North Elmsley Candidates

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George Sachs, Councillor, North Elmsley Ward 1
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The OLA did not receive responses from these candidates:

Ray Scissons, Councillor, North Elmsley Ward – no email address provided

George Sachs, Councillor, North Elmsley Ward

Q1. The Conservation Authority is a trusted partner of our Lake Associations. Please provide your perspective on the future role of the Conservation Authority in your townships planning and approval process for waterfront and wetland properties?

My perspective on the future role of the Conservation Authority is to provide advice and counsel to the elected officials of the municipalities they serve and to provide comments on planning decisions to help/assist council on future decisions based on their expertise and knowledge.

Q2. What would you do to protect the health of our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands?

"I would do the following to protect the health of our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands;

- promote and educate residents of the potential impacts of their decisions
- provide ongoing assistance to residents who chose to modify their properties and encourage them to utilize available grants
- to be a good steward and to lead by example
- guide policy decisions using established best practices
- to have a healthy working relationship with provincial counterparts for available grants and programs
- look to our neighbours for possible ideas and proven methods"

Q3. If elected would you support a new by-law that would improve control over site alterations prior to building or minor variance approvals?

In theory yes, but any new by-laws would have to conform with the municipal act and respect the property owners. We have elected officials for these decisions and I would not want to take their voice away or lessen their ability to make informed decisions. I am unclear how a duplicate by-law in addition to the zoning by-law would be beneficial to anyone.

Q4. Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development.

This is possibly the hardest question to answer when it comes to planning decisions. I believe we need to consider both. Without economic development, the municipality is not sustainable and services will be diminished. Negotiations are vital to balancing both. If developers want to do business and want the support of the community, they will help in this regard (maintaining environmental sustainability). The two go hand in hand, without one you cannot have the other. This is one of the greatest challenges of rural municipalities. I acknowledge that our lakes, rivers and wetlands are the key to our future for both environmental sustainability and economic development.

Q5. If you could change one thing in our zoning by-laws, what would it be and why?

Given the fact that the zoning by-law is 136 pages, it is very extensive. One area I would amend is section 19 (waste disposal). I would include provisions allowing for incineration (waste to energy). This will eventually become financially beneficial and will extend the life of our landfill for many decades.

Q6. Much of our township's taxes come from seasonal and residential property owners; relatively little from businesses. What would you do to ensure the township has a sustainable tax base for the future.

I would encourage families and businesses to move to DNE township by continuing to maintain great core services which in turn encourages people and businesses to invest in DNE. I would keep taxes affordable. This is appealing for residents and businesses alike. I would maintain our road network, public facilities and encourage people to enjoy public assets.

Q7. Do you support the mandatory septic re-inspection program on Otty Lake?

Yes. As long as the expectations, standards and fees remain reasonable. If any of the aforementioned begin to become burdensome or excessive for residents who follow the rules that are legislated by the upper levels of government, then I would be forced to revisit the by-law.

Susan Brandum, Councillor, North Elmsley Ward

Q1. The Conservation Authority is a trusted partner of our Lake Associations. Please provide your perspective on the future role of the Conservation Authority in your townships planning and approval process for waterfront and wetland properties?

I am not expecting a change in the role of the CAs in regard to D/NE. The CAs were established in part by municipalities to serve particular functions with regards to planning and development on sensitive waterfront and wetland lands. It's a system that basically works well, to share the expertise and costs among municipalities that otherwise could not afford it on their own. As a member of D/NE's Committee of Adjustment, I rely heavily on reports and recommendations from the Rideau and Mississippi CAs. However, there will likely be efforts by the province to download costs to the municipalities as a result of its own cuts. If elected, I will be strongly advocating for D/NE and Lanark County to push back against those cuts and downloads.

Q2. What would you do to protect the health of our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands?

If elected, I would want to strengthen D/NE's Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw to contain development on waterways, to greatly increase naturalized areas and water's edge shading, and to better prepare for weather extremes of severe precipitation, overland flooding, droughts and heat stress. Creeks, rivers, lakes and wetlands are D/NE's stormwater management system. Consequently, we need to ensure they remain healthy and functioning and not susceptible to failure. From a bigger picture perspective, I would want to create a Climate Change Committee to ensure that every decision by D/NE is made not only through a budget lens, but a climate change mitigation lens. This would ensure that actions implemented by D/NE produce the least greenhouse gases possible. This would have a long-term benefit to waterways.

Q3. If elected would you support a new by-law that would improve control over site alterations prior to building or minor variance approvals?

I would be very interested in exploring the capacity for the Township to regulate lands in between times that a property comes before the Township for some approval. Having developed and managed education programs that addressed shoreline living, I am too well aware of actions harmful to the environment by uninformed residents. I am equally aware of the positive actions embraced by informed residents. I know that most people will do the right thing, when they know what that is. Only a small proportion refuse to. Somehow, we need to find a way to reach most people, preferably without regulation, but with regulation if necessary.

Q4. Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development.

Twenty years ago, and even 10 years ago, I would have answered that we can have both in equal balance. Regrettably, while we have taken good action on a number of fronts, such as septic re-inspections and reducing phosphates on lakes, we have not taken enough action on other fronts, specifically climate change. Consequently, we are now in the position that we need to give extra weight to the natural world. Hopefully, the fact that so many facets of the new economy are far less damaging to the natural world will allow us to provide greater protection to nature.

Q5. If you could change one thing in our zoning by-laws, what would it be and why?

As a member of D/NE's Committee of Adjustment, I have found myself sounding like a broken record, repeatedly recommending stronger storm water mitigation provisions ... so, strengthening those components. Why? Because we only have to look to the recent floods in Peterborough and Toronto and our own Mississippi Lake to see the consequences of not planning for flooding. However, I will also be recommending provisions that strengthen greenhouse gas reductions and adaptive measures to climate change.

Q6. Much of our township's taxes come from seasonal and residential property owners; relatively little from businesses. What would you do to ensure the township has a sustainable tax base for the future.

To be fair, I can't answer that right now. I fully expect the province to attempt to make large downloads to municipalities both directly and indirectly. In the 90s, municipalities struggled to handle the unfair and unsustainable downloads that the province wrought then and only came out from under the worst some 4-6 years ago. If elected, I will be strongly encouraging D/NE and Lanark County to push back. Even so, I would expect the budget making process in the next few years to be particularly challenging.

Q7. Do you support the mandatory septic re-inspection program on Otty Lake?

Yes. I would like to see opportunities developed to provide funding for new septic systems (and wells and other private property improvements that benefit the environment) and intend to explore the possibility of municipalities under Lanark County developing a similar program to that delivered by the City of Toronto for energy efficiency upgrades, provided through a provision in the Municipal Act, that allows a property owner to make change and pay the cost through his or her taxes.

Cindy Laprade, Councillor, North Elmsley Ward

Q1. The Conservation Authority is a trusted partner of our Lake Associations. Please provide your perspective on the future role of the Conservation Authority in your townships planning and approval process for waterfront and wetland properties?

There are two conservation authorities in Drummond/North Elmsley, the Mississippi Conservation Authority and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has authority in North Elmsley and over Otty Lake. Our conservation authorities are an essential part of municipal planning to protect our wetlands, waterfront and our lakes. They are a critical component in

preventing loss of life and property damage due to flooding and erosion. They regulate construction along environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and waterways. They review development proposals, i.e. Municipal Plan, Planning Act. This involvement is required because of regulations passed under the authority of Ontario's Planning Act and by provincially delegated responsibility for the management of natural hazards. The RVCA also has formal agreements with the Counties within the Rideau watershed to provide review for hydrogeological and natural heritage interests. We depend on the Conservation Authorities to continue to do their job protecting our waterfront, lakes and wetlands. They are an integral part of land use planning involving waterfront and wetlands and they need a strong voice to protect our natural resources if we want our children, grandchildren and future generations to have clean lakes to swim in and still hear the call of the loons.

Q2. What would you do to protect the health of our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands?

I would be reaching out to communities and associations on the lakes to ask for your suggestions on how to protect our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands. I think it's important that we who live on the lake speak up and help municipal leaders understand the issues so that they can do what is needed to resolve, e.g. new by-laws, enforcement of existing by-laws and building/septic codes, new user fees, Parks Canada involvement, OPP enforcement, etc. I personally am quite concerned about the blue green algae appearing in our lakes – and where is it coming from, leakage from septic systems or prohibited outhouses?? My dog can't even go in the Big Rideau as she ends up with "hot spots", a rash on her belly. In these cases, we need to enforce septic code regulations and do more mandatory septic inspections. One of my pet peeves is boaters speeding through "no wake zones". I have not seen any OPP policing of speeders and Parks Canada does nothing when you call to identify the issue. In fact, last year my small motor boat tied to my dock was totally swamped – completely under water. There was relatively little wind on that day and no rain, so it had to be careless boater(s) to close to my dock and going too fast. If I was on Council I would be contacting Parks Canada and the OPP to do something about this. If they couldn't do anything then I would figure out who could. Recently it has been noted that the boaters docking at the new docks in Rideau Ferry are throwing garbage, beer bottles, etc. into the lake. Perhaps a User Fee for docking there would curtail this.

Q3. If elected would you support a new by-law that would improve control over site alterations prior to building or minor variance approvals?

I understand that the issue involves land where there is no site plan control and property owners are altering the land prior to permits or authorization. I agree that this is not acceptable as they could be damaging the environment, neighboring properties or even storm drainage. If this is happening it should be brought to Council to seek resolution. Personally, I would like to find out more about this type of situation and why these properties are not under any site plan control. What makes them different? I am aware that under Section 41 of the Planning Act, municipalities can pass by-laws requiring a Site Plan Control Agreement prior to any site alteration activities on properties within a designated Site Plan Control area. The Agreement must be entered into within the Municipality prior to the issuance of a building permit. In the case of properties undergoing additional Planning Act applications, such as an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Minor Variance and/or Consent to Sever, the Site Plan Control Agreement must be entered into prior to final approval of all other applications. If there are specific concerns in Otty Lake regarding alternations to sites prior to building or minor variance

approvals, then those concerns need to be brought to Council with suggestions on how to resolve the issues.

Q4. Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development.

One cannot be at the expense of the other. They are equally important. The Brundtland Commission in 1987 documented sustainable development as: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This implies that we need to look after our planet, our resources and our people to ensure that we can live in a sustainable manner and that we can hand down our planet to our children and our grandchildren to live in true sustainability. To achieve sustainability we must balance economic, environmental and social factors equally. This is a difficult job for sure, but all factors must be considered when making decisions about the future.

Q5. If you could change one thing in our zoning by-laws, what would it be and why?

The Zoning By-Law contains the current rules and regulations that guide a specific property's use. All new development and land uses are supposed to comply with the provisions of the Zoning By-Law however, in my experience, I know of examples where minor variances have been authorized that appear to be in direct contravention of this By-Law. It would seem the problem is more of township compliance with their By-Law versus changes to the By-Law, however if the Otty Lake Association has suggestions about changes then they should be brought to Council for review, consultation and resolution. I am concerned that our zoning by-law would permit a "change of use" in a rural/farm setting to allow 4 rugby fields including overhead night lighting and parking where neighbors have homes and farms. This just doesn't make sense to me and I certainly would not support this.

Q6. Much of our township's taxes come from seasonal and residential property owners; relatively little from businesses. What would you do to ensure the township has a sustainable tax base for the future.

Our problem is that we must find another sustainable source of revenue other than property tax. Property tax cannot provide the funding required to replace our infrastructure into the future especially because the provincial government continues to reduce grant funding to municipalities. Our 2019 capital funding (OCIF Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding) is being provided based on the 2016 Census Population Counts. The average population increase in Canada at that time was 5%. For any township with less than a 5% increase, grant funding is being reduced. Drummond/North Elmsley had a 3.8% population increase and can therefore expect to receive less capital funding in 2019 than was received in 2018. Our costs are not going down and yet our government funding is being reduced. We must look to other sources of revenue. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMTO) is asking the federal and provincial government for a 1% sales tax devoted solely to local infrastructure services such as roads, bridges and transit. "Municipal governments are working around the clock to provide critical services, like good roads, clean drinking water and safe communities, but growing needs and costs are putting too much pressure on property taxes. AMO estimates that municipal governments face an annual shortfall of about \$4.9 billion dollars for the next 10 years to maintain current services and address the infrastructure gap. More information is available at <https://www.amo.on.ca/LocalShare>" <https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/News->

[Releases/2017/MunicipalLeadersCallfor1PerCentofHSTforLocalInfras.](#) While no one wants to see HST increase at least this 1% would be put directly back into municipal pockets and would provide the funding needed to replace or build new infrastructure. This cannot be on the backs of the property tax payer as many are on limited incomes and cannot afford 8%+ property tax increases annually. That is what is estimated it would take to clear up Ontario's infrastructure deficit. If this doesn't happen we must continue to look for other sources of revenue, i.e. increase user pay (public docks?), search for more grants, look for foundations that want to give funds to municipalities for specific purposes, (they are out there), etc.

Q7. Do you support the mandatory septic re-inspection program on Otty Lake?

Definitely! It should be mandatory on/near all water bodies. <https://www.rvca.ca/regulations-planning/septic-re-inspection-program>. "Malfunctioning on-site sewage systems can have both human health and environmental impacts beyond the property on which it is located. Nutrient and bacteria-rich effluent can travel through soil and rock fractures to surface water bodies, and ground water sources. Contamination of surface water can cause excessive aquatic plant growth, depletion of oxygen in lakes, and impact the natural habitat for aquatic species. Ground water contamination can cause illness and even death. This makes it crucial that property owners be aware of the location and operation of their septic system. Under the Ontario Building Code it is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that their sewage system is working properly, not only for their health, but also that of the surrounding community and environment. This re-inspection program gives property owners the confidence that their system is operating properly — avoiding contamination of surface and groundwater."

Paul Kehoe, Councillor, Drummond Ward

Q1. The Conservation Authority is a trusted partner of our Lake Associations. Please provide your perspective on the future role of the Conservation Authority in your townships planning and approval process for waterfront and wetland properties?

With respect to the CA, (Conservation Authority) They already have a role to play in the planning process within municipalities and I support their activities in this regard.

Q2. What would you do to protect the health of our lakes, rivers, creeks and wetlands?

Your second question is generic in nature. As an Environmental Officer for over 30 years I have demonstrated the ability to understand provincial legislation, (OWRA) as it related to water quality. Given this background it would be my intent to ensure that if issue arise on a case specific bases that may be impacted by Provincial Legislation I would provided guidance to Council on ensuring that due consideration of legislative requirements are made. If your specific question is would I suggest bylaws on the protection of water quality I would not like to see bylaws that reiterate existing Provincial Legislation as this is a counter productive use of the Municipality time and resources. If the issue is one not covered by provincial statues and is area specific I can see that a bylaw may be required.

Q3. If elected would you support a new by-law that would improve control over site alterations prior to building or minor variance approvals?

In regard to question 3 given that I know very little of the context of which you are thinking I cannot say truthfully that I would pass a bylaw of this nature. For example are you talking about shoreline development or a farming property variance. Each instance needs to be considered on a site specific bases.

Q4. Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development.

With regards to question 4 it is important that both aspects, environmental sustainability and economic development go hand in hand. I don't see that wise development needs to be done at the expense of environmental sustainability. However, the determination of environmental sustainability can vary from one person to another. In a Council setting this may mean weighing the pro's and cons of a particular issue and determining the best course forward based upon sound planning practices.

Q5. If you could change one thing in our zoning by-laws, what would it be and why?

For your question number 5 I believe in wetland protection and I have seen instances in DNE where wetland protection has been neglected. If I was to change one thing it would be to ensure wetland protection measures are followed. This is an issue that I want to review in more detail if I am successful in my campaign.

Q6. Much of our township's taxes come from seasonal and residential property owners; relatively little from businesses. What would you do to ensure the township has a sustainable tax base for the future.

Obviously for question 6 I want the municipality to be fiscally responsible. That means that through taking advantage of Provincial Infrastructure grants and having the ability to reorganize priorities is important to me. We are not in a position to make huge investment in recreational infrastructure on our own so part of maintaining the ongoing partnerships with surrounding municipalities is something I believe in. I want to ensure that we can continue to utilize the library, pools and other recreation facilities as a means of keeping our expenditures in order. In terms of taxation I believe in increases that are in keeping with the cost of living adjustments. I do not believe in zero tax increases if they are not warranted as this eventually leads to the erosion of infrastructure and ending up with higher costs in the future such as a double digit tax raises that I have seen in some municipalities following this short sighted strategy. I also believe in encouraging development that is consistent with the rural nature of DNE such as that in the small industrial park out on hwy 7. I also believe in cottage industries and small commercial operations such as Coutt's Country Flavours near Rideau Ferry, as these bring in revenue to the area that is consistent with the Rural/Tourism character of DNE.

Q7. Do you support the mandatory septic re-inspection program on Otty Lake?

For item 7 truthfully I am not aware of the program so without the details it is not something I want to comment on. I have been party to similar programs in my time with MOE and they do tend to have merit given a clear mandate of what the intended outcome is.

Anouk Tremblay, French Separate School Board Trustee

Did not provide detailed answers to our questions, but provided this link:

<https://anouktremblay.wixsite.com/2018>.