



Otter Lake News



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Fall 2018

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ELECTION SPECIAL!

*Submitted by Karl Fiander
Government Liaison*

Whether you are a seasonal or permanent resident of Otter Lake....DON'T FORGET TO VOTE BETWEEN OCTOBER 15th and 22nd!!!

OLLA has asked the candidates for Council in Ward 1 (south end of the lake), Ward 2 (the rest of the lake) and Mayoral candidates to react to a few questions that have relevance to our interests. Below you can find the questions followed by the replies received from the candidates.

Please consider the answers carefully I am sure the candidates would like to hear from you if you have further questions.

DISCLAIMER - Please note that views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the candidates, and not necessarily of OLLA

QUESTION #1:

What commitments are you prepared to make to ensure that waterfront resident's input is permitted, solicited, and duly represented? There is an election platform by one of the candidates for mayor pertaining to the formation of a Council Committee which includes lake association

representatives. Do you support this?

ROB DUNFIELD (Candidate for Mayor):

"I truly believe waterfront resident's input is needed, properly solicited and duly represented at the Council table. To ensure this, I would recommend all our lake associations be appropriately represented at Council level. A Committee of Council can be set up to listen and deal with the concerns and wishes of all lake associations. Existing Committee of Councils currently represent our community halls, recreation and beautification committees. A member from each association along with one Councillor from each ward would form this committee. This would allow all concerns to be funnelled through Council and subsequently acted upon. It will give your association a strong voice with your elected representatives and enable concrete plans to go forward for lake sustainability. The future of our lakes requires effective communication between Council and all lake associations. This committee will provide an excellent communication tool for all concerned."

ARIE HOOGENBOOM (Candidate for Mayor):

"I support regular input from waterfront residents as they make up 65% of our tax base. I do not see a need for a specific committee just for Lake Association representatives but would encourage an annual meeting with Council and Lake Association representatives at least once a year".

CAROLYN BRESEE (Candidate for Council Ward 1):

"All Twp. of Rideau Lakes residential and non-residential property owners must be made to feel welcome to express their concerns and interests first to their elected Ward Councillor.

My commitment is to become a bridge between the

OLLA waterfront residents and Twp. Council. This Municipal Election in particular... Communication and letting constituents know what is going on/happening in their ward and in the Twp. as a whole. This is the desired effect.

My job is to provide OLLA with the tools and methods of composing a "talking document" and a "paper trail". When concerns, interests are not on paper, they cannot be put on any type of agenda.

I see most recently your added correspondence of the OLLA culvert survey at the end of an agenda. You and I both want to see it moved forward and placed on the agenda even as a Delegation with a presentation of the survey results. Whatever the topic... the more information shared with Council... the better. The best representation of OLLA is a delegated, active organization member to be on a committee of some type formed by the Twp. Perhaps a Committee of Council...

The policies and procedures to follow do not come overnight. By following the correct path at the beginning will accomplish things in a timely manner. Please keep in mind... that the Twp. of Rideau Lakes must follow policies and procedures laid out for all Municipalities to adhere to."

KIMBERLEY BROWN (Candidate for Council Ward 1):

"Yes- I support the formation of a council committee, as well as providing town hall meetings when the waterfront communities need to be consulted and have input on future endeavours. Working with the various associations is key to preserving our waterfronts, water ways and lakes. Further, perhaps creating a database for digital newsletters and announcements would further help provide information to our waterfront residents".

MARCIA CANNON (Candidate for Council Ward 1):
Did not reply

CATHY LIVINGSTON (Candidate for Council Ward 1)

"I would support the idea of a committee of Council with a representative from each of the Lake Associations within the Twsp. The Lake Associations do a great job keeping watch over our greatest resource, our water bodies, so working

together would be a good way to keep Council informed."

JEFF BANKS (Candidate for Council Ward 2):

"As elections are open to anyone who wants to vote or run as a politician it is imperative that people who are concerned about water run or vote and make their voice heard. A committee with council gets my support."

RON HOLMAN (Candidate for Council Ward 2):

"I would support the formation of a Committee in bringing forward issues of concern and suggestions for progress. With over 30 lakes and possibly 30 lake associations, clearly defined objectives and procedures would be necessary."

MARCIA MAXWELL (Candidate for Council Ward 2)

"I would definitely support a "Council Committee" that included representation of the various lake associations in the Township, however, this terminology could mean that there would be possibly more Councillors on the committee than lake representatives. If it was a "Committee of Council" there would be more lake representatives and a couple of Councillors who could report back to Council on endeavors of the committee. This would be similar to the Skate the Lake Committee and the Sappers and Miners Cemetery Committee that I am on. Either way it would be an improvement to have more communication with the Township."

QUESTION # 2:

There is a widely held view among waterfront taxpayers that the majority of tax revenue is raised by waterfront assessment but most of the available resources are directed elsewhere. Do you agree with the concept of an equitable distribution of resources among taxpayer categories? An election position has emerged that suggests that lake associations be supported financially to address local issues. Do you support this idea?

ROB DUNFIELD (Mayor):

"My competitor has more than once turned down support for the Big Rideau Lake Association while I have supported them and asked for their request to

be included in the 2018 budget. A number brought forward by my competitor was to pay \$50.00 per member to your lake association by the Township. This would be a \$5,000 expense. If we supported every lake association the same, this would mean an approximate 1% increase annually in our taxes by every resident in Rideau Lakes. This would be extremely expensive for our municipality. Where I support covering costs associated with water quality studies and the like, I feel supporting these programs as they arise would be more economical for the Township and money well spent. In that light, I will support a mandatory septic system inspection program for any system 10 years or older. It is imperative that we keep the phosphorous levels down and our waters clean."

ARIE HOOGENBOOM (Mayor):

"I agree that municipal spending priorities should be distributed to all ratepayers. For waterfront property owners this may take the form of ensuring that garbage collection and recycling continues down private roads, that roads leading to private roads are well maintained and that road association grants are increased. I am also advocating for a grant to Lake Associations based on membership to be targeted towards the associations priorities. The Township also needs to be an active participant in resolving lake water levels when possible and appropriate."

CAROLYN BRESEE (Ward 1):

"I believe waterfront taxpayers do add significant to the overall municipal tax base.

If it were possible to view an OLLA financial report for 2017-2018... I think that would be the first place to discuss revenue and expenses. Look at additional financial support... where and how it might be used by the OLLA. Equitable distribution of resources among taxpayer categories would only work if all needs of all Wards were the same. Each Ward has its own unique profile and their constituents have many different ideas and needs. The Lake Association(s) are not on a Committee of Council or an Ad-Hoc Committee. They cannot receive an annual budget or be supported financially. Therefore, as an active Campaign Candidate for

Ward 1 combined with a section of South Elmsley I cannot support the idea you presented. However... who's to say that there may be other suggestions &/or ideas or suggestions...?"

KIMBERLEY BROWN (Ward 1):

"I think tax resources should be as equitably used as possible through the township. The township should support the lake association, because a huge area of the township has water ways and lakes."

MARCIA CANNON (Ward 1):

Did not reply

CATHY LIVINGSTON (Ward 1):

"I believe that we are privileged to live in one the best areas in the entire world. Some can afford to live on the water while others live inland either because of preference or financially. Our properties are assessed by the province and our taxes are calculated by their assessment. The Conservation Authorities have the rights and responsibilities for our waterways; however whenever issues arise then I have been and will support Council to help out financially where we can. For example the study on the Upper Beverley Lake flooding and the one coming up on Otter Lake and Bass Lake."

JEFF BANKS (Ward 2):

"I have said time and again that there needs to be a system in place to offset the waterfront taxes and equal them out as they receive less services than inland properties. There is an inequity in the fundings among not only lake properties but wards also. This would require a change in the municipal act and I have made that inquiry to our MPP already 4 years ago and have again. As for supporting the lake assc I asked that the OLLA submit a request 2 years ago to get support funding and although it has been turned down hopefully the rest of council will see the need for some kind of funding."

RON HOLMAN (Ward 2):

"Percentage of assessment from waterfront and inland properties vary by ward. The results of the last mpac assessment indicated that inland properties had the highest increase in market value with waterfront having the highest average assessment. Most of the township services are

shared by all property types from commercial, industrial to residential. Some may use services more than others, however all services are required by the township as a whole. Over the years, some have said "I live on hwy 15 or cty rd, why should I pay for road township road maintenance or snow plowing. there are many other specific similarities. Our services from roads to fire are important to all. The question re support requires more details. If the question is would I support a contribution to help lake associations with cost of meetings, I would. However the words in the question "to support local issues" is unclear if you are referring to capital work. With over 30 possible lake associations and inland hamlet and village associations, the cost to our tax base would be considerable."

MARCIA MAXWELL (Ward 2):

"Yes I do support this initiative and it may need to include private roads as part of the financial support. Right now a majority of the waterfront property owners do not feel they are getting much for the taxes that they pay and I am sure if they were to see a direct financial input into waterfront issues it might help "ease the pain". However, I am surprised at the number of rural residents that feel the same way. Garbage is one of the biggest complaints from the cost per bag to the issue of disposing of large items and the associated cost. Clear bags/blue bags are more expensive and in the case of the blue bags adding more plastic to the overall waste management that we are trying to reduce. I think there is common ground here with the two groups that may create a new garbage system to benefit all and cut costs".

QUESTION # 3:

Lake Plans are supported by extensive data collection, consultation, and careful consideration by the majority of property owners on a given lake. In most cases the local township is given the opportunity to provide input to the plan throughout the process. What is your view of lake plans that are approved by members of cottager associations and how do you see them fitting in with the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws?

ROB DUNFIELD (Mayor): *Note: Answer is to*

questions #3 and #4 combined.

"I believe one of the most positive things for our planning department would be to put together a development model for all lakes in Rideau Lakes. To help us allow better watershed management this should include all recreational uses as well. Partnerships with the Conservation Authorities Parks Canada, Lake Associations and Council are necessary. Open meetings where residents voices can be heard should also be considered.

There is existing data that can be used to develop a new water quality and recreational use based model. As previously mentioned, control of phosphorous body is one of the most important aspects of this model. It must be managed so our water quality is not degraded by phosphorous. This model should be added as an appendix to our Official Plan so it can be used as a guide when developing property on our lakes. This is where the importance of partnering with our local lake associations by providing specific information for every lake will play a key role in the future of our lakes. I fully support funding for special water quality and waterfront studies. Please take a moment to search google for "muskokalakes.civicweb.net" They conducted a study in 2016 that if we were to run a similar program it would be well supported by myself. We need to keep our water clean in all our lakes. Council should support these initiatives for the future of our welfare rests on pristine water conditions".

ARIE HOOGENBOOM (Mayor):

"My view on Lake Plans is that they are an important tool that can be used by a municipality to ensure that lakes are protected for future generations. I see Lake Associations as important contributors to the often controversial process of renewing the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw."

CAROLYN BRESEE (Ward 1):

"Otter Lake Landowner's Association has shown me at the July 2018 AGM... that they are a concerned group, who work hard at keeping and caring for Otter Lake. As Ward 1 Councillor for Bastard and South Burgess, I would hope to provide OLLA with

pertinent information on Waterfront Development available through the Development Services Department. I believe my job is to provide some guidance to start you on your way. I believe the Twp. of Rideau Lakes has a vested interest in Lake Plans and Lake Planning and needs to know what the needs are by the OLLA. In turn, I believe OLLA must increase their profile with the Twp. I believe lake plans approved by members of cottager associations is a conflict of interest and may not fairly represent all interested parties. The Municipal Official Plan and Municipal Zoning By-Laws both have specific policies and procedures. The Twp. has to follow set policies and procedures thus providing their accountability and overall transparency. There will public input sessions.

At this point in time... I believe the Twp. of Rideau Lakes Official Plan is on hold... awaiting the final County Official Plan. This has been due to a change in government."

KIMBERLEY BROWN (Ward 1):

"I think the township should work with the cottage associations, not just providing input in the planning process but with zoning and by laws. Consideration should be given if an amendment is asked for, and we should consider the future impact of development, and maintenance of these areas. "

MARCIA CANNON (Ward 1):

Did not reply.

CATHY LIVINGSTON (Ward 1):

"We are very fortunate to have so many property owners who volunteer their time on the Lake Associations. The Twsp Official Plan will be updated in this next term so I believe it would be beneficial to work with the Lake Associations to get their input. However we do need to work with the rules and regulations set out by the Province and by the United Counties but working together would be good for all".

JEFF BANKS (Ward 2):

"Lake plans and data collection should be done by one group to ensure the consistency of them. As for implementing them in an official plan is questionable as this would have to pass the OMB

test and the Provincial Policy Statement. Saying for example a lake assc would like to stop development, that would not pass the Ontario Municipal Board test. But data collected could cause rise to different zonings if done right."

RON HOLMAN (Ward 2):

"Having property on Bass and Rideau lake for over 40 years prior to moving inland, I fully understand the importance of our waterfront properties, as well as our inland properties. During my time living on the waterfront I have witnessed many changes. For many years waterfront properties were mainly seasonal many for three or four months. As time progressed with retirement and popularity, many seasonal properties were and are being converted to permanent year-round properties. During my council term I have supported lake associations and as many recall, encouraged their formation to deal with issues of importance to preserve and protect our lakes and rivers."

MARCIA MAXWELL (Ward 2):

"Lake Plans are very important and I am really pleased that we were able to finally create one that is unique to our Otter Lake community. Lake Plans are technically a "live" program that is meant to allow for change as our lake and community grows over the years. I attended the event where the Otty Lake Management Plan was recognized by the Tay Valley Township with a ribbon cutting ceremony. I believe the plans created by the lake associations should be made part of the Townships Official Plans and they should grow together as revisions are made to both through the years."

QUESTION # 4:

If elected, how would you demonstrate a commitment to sustainability? In some municipalities there are limits on waterfront development. Do you support the use of development models for lakes?

ROB DUNFIELD (Mayor); Note: Answer combined with #3 above.

ARIE HOOGENBOOM (Mayor):

"I am committed to environmentally sustainable development. Property owners who wish to convert

their cottage to a permanent dwelling or do additions should be able to do so provided they can show no negative impact on our water quality. I respect and understand the role of municipal planning guidelines and the input from conservation authorities. As a new seasonal cottage owner on Bass Lake and a former year round lake dweller I appreciate the quality of life our waterfront affords us. Finally I am an advocate for a significant increase to our mandatory septic inspection program. More public education on the impact of poor septic is needed along with proper maintenance. The municipality, conservation authorities and lake associations can all contribute to this".

CAROLYN BRESEE (Ward 1):

"For me... I believe the following...

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Taken from... Dave Stauffer

"What's Sustainable"? Planning Perspective

This quote fits how I feel about sustainability and one that I can commit to in things I say and do.

My short answer is yes. Municipalities may have limits on waterfront development.

However... anything re. waterfront needs to go through the correct channels outside of the Twp.

Parks Canada, Conservation Authorities are just 2 to mention. Know your needs and follow the guidelines, policies and procedures providing both accountability and transparency. Think in advance and pre-plan ahead. As Ward 1 Councillor, I can provide the information and help with your plans. Development Models are just that. They can provide a concept or part of an idea. They are not to be taken as... this is how it's going to look...! Each and every project, big or small... is unique unto itself. Development models for lakes is probably a bit problematic... but could still be used to present a point."

KIMBERLEY BROWN (Ward 1):

"To provided a sustainable way of life, we should be open to development- residential or commercial. We should be creative and think outside the box to find

ways to not just preserve our waterfront areas, but also provide means of sustainability. Sometimes simple is the best way to go, not grandeur."

MARCIA CANNON (Ward 1):

Did not reply.

CATHY LIVINGSTON (Ward 1):

"I believe the Twsp has great support Staff in our Development Dep't. I know many think they are too strict but they are just trying to follow the Official Plan and protect our water bodies. They do try to find the best solution for the property owners and conservation authorities that works for all parties involved."

JEFF BANKS (Ward 2):

"I have always said that I would rather have an old dilapidated cottage painted in lead paint having sewage going into a 45 gallon drum REPLACED WITH A NEW COTTAGE NEW MATERIALS AND A NEW SEPTIC TANK. Development is allowed on the same footprint now with minor variances and OMB has allowed this to continue so a precedent has been set in law .I have made inquiries into a score card for waterfront development to the RVCA and hopefully we can get this started for a more consistent set of policies next year."

RON HOLMAN (Ward 2):

"I have been and will continue to be a strong supporter of bylaw and official plan regulations that protect our lakes and rivers today and tomorrow. Some of our waterbodies with high occupancy are stretched to maintain water quality. We get one opportunity to preserve our lakes and rivers, we must do it for future generations. Future septic system inspections are important and I would look for continued guidance from lake associations.

MARCIA MAXWELL (Ward 2):

"Definitely I would support this if it was proven that water quality would be affected. Water quality is a key aspect of our sustainability throughout the system! Currently we do not have a development model for sustainability of the lakes in this area and not many lakes throughout the province do. I have been involved by attending seminars over the years on this issue and there are pros and cons on the benefits of this. In the meantime, I think we need

to look at each case individually with a "common sense" approach to the "best practice" for each property in keeping with the current building codes and waterfront management recommendations until such time as a development model is produced through Lake Plans or the Township and incorporated into the Township Official Plan."

QUESTION # 5:

The OPP have a policy of not patrolling private roadways. Given the majority of waterfront taxpayers are serviced by private roads and lanes, this poses a security risk in that police are not familiar with private roads. What is your proposed solution?

ROB DUNFIELD (Mayor):

"Our OPP should be involved with community policing. They do need to be familiar with all the Township, not just the major arteries. Running their snow mobiles down private lanes and back roads during the winter, patrolling the same during the warmer months, patrolling our lakes and waterways would benefit everyone. OPP costing is one of our major budget items. Learning where our backroads and private lanes are, where you live, is important. This is something I would support."

ARIE HOOGENBOOM (Mayor):

"As your Mayor I would challenge the OPP on this policy as all households pay for policing. We must recognize that the OPP cannot enforce traffic regulations on private roads, however occasional patrols would give waterfront owners a greater sense of security".

CAROLYN BRESEE (Ward 1):

"The Twp. of Rideau Lakes is a large municipality.

Hearing recently.... an O.P.P. Report to Council, clearly shows and explains a severe shortage of police on patrol.

I believe private roads for waterfront taxpayers, were originally deemed private because most cottagers came to their properties on a seasonal basis. Some waterfront property owners' have turned their cottages into more of a 4 seasons' home... if not a permanent home setting.

I think this has created a concern for patrolling and

a police presence.

The waterfront taxpayers are serviced by private roads and lanes, I agree. Yes this could pose a security risk and police may not be familiar with these areas.

At present... private roads and lanes are just that, they're for private use by people who live there. Their signage reads Private Road. I believe private roads and lanes have everything to gain by changing their status to that of a Twp. maintained road/roadway. There is much to gain and perhaps some thought about feeling safer where you live full time &/or seasonally."

KIMBERLEY BROWN (Ward 1):

"We should address this issue, not just with our emergency services, but with databases for Canada Post, and navigational software companies. Emergency services should be able to find our residents, as time is always of the essence in these matters. We should help provide up to date information to these services. From the township perspective, hiring a student or intern to help update addresses and street names and keep such data current would be a good step in that direction.

MARCIA CANNON (Ward 1):

Did not reply.

CATHY LIVINGSTON (Ward 1):

"At the beginning of this term we had a 911 AdHoc committee that dealt with the duplicate roads in R, O & B with most changes being made in Ward 1. Part of this process for those private roads and any new ones is that the info is downloaded to the United Counties and the GPS systems that includes the OPP and Fire and Ambulance services. MHAC has updated all private roads on the new Heritage Map that was distributed this summer. All private roads with a Road Committee are granted funding to help with road maintenance that includes brush trimming so emergency vehicles can get through in an emergency. So the Twsp has done a lot of work to provide the information so perhaps we can ask the OPP to start doing some patrolling of our Private Roads. "

JEFF BANKS (Ward 2):

"That's because they are private. Let me clear up a myth .Police are very familiar with all cottage roads and their locations. When an error is made in the name of the road or the number, this is what is causing most of the concerns with not only police but all other things like deliveries. Proper input into a GPS also causes problems. Having this info on your fridge is a way to avoid improper data entry of an address. **HAVING A DAUGHTER WORKING OUT OF THE LOMBARDY OFFICE AS AN OFFICER WITH THE OPP IS MY SOURCE FOR THIS STATEMENT.** Any questions please call anytime 6132846200"

RON HOLMAN (Ward 2):

"Having the OPP at a lake association/twp meeting would be beneficial to all. As you indicate the policy in place now is a opp policy. As we have more private roads than township roads cost would be a consideration as policing is one of the most expensive cost centres we have. I feel our opp, ambulance and fire service provide a excellent service in time of need and with their technology can locate residents. It is important for all residents to make sure you address is clearly visible and access is safe. With many roads accessed seasonally in the past, year around occupancy creates more demand and maintenance."

MARCIA MAXWELL (Ward 2):

"This is a tough one. In the last 4 years the financial re-structuring of the service the OPP provides seems to be not inclusive of the service provided in years past. I remember years ago when we would make our first trip to the cottage, in the spring, to find a red tag on the door saying the OPP had been in during the off season to check on the properties. Today, we only see them on the private roads if called in for an "incident". Currently, there is a larger number of permanent owners on the waterfront properties, than in the past, so one would think there is more of an need to at least periodically travel the many private lanes to at least be familiar with the locations in the event of an urgent need."

Voting Information

The 2018 Municipal Election is Monday October 22, 2018, but you can vote on-line or by phone

between October 15th - 22nd. Electors will be casting their votes for the offices of Mayor, Councillor, and School Board Trustee. The Township of Rideau Lakes Election information may be found on their website: <http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca/election-voters.html>

If you have not as yet received your instruction letter please contact Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk, Township of Rideau Lakes. Her contact information: Tel: 800-928-2250 - Ext. 293

Email: mtruelove@twprideaulakes.on.ca

Social & Recreational Events

Submitted by Judy Hodgins

Chair, Social & Recreation Sub-Committee

On Sunday, August 12th a "dock sale" was held on Otter Lake. The weather was perfect for the event – sunny and calm water conditions. While the number of participants was lower than expected, hopefully those who did take advantage of this event found it to be worthwhile either as a seller, buyer or both. Speaking for myself, a new home was found for two sets of water skis and a boat ladder. More importantly, though, we met and talked to several of our fellow Otter Lake landowners. We even met the daughter of a long-ago friend who was my husband's best man at our wedding 43 years ago! The last time we saw her she was a just a wee girl and now she has a family of her own and enjoys good times on Otter Lake.

WOW – what a day!

Submitted by June Finless

Chair, Fish & Wildlife Sub-Committee

It was an AMAZING and successful fish brush bundle day once again. On September 19th, RVCA and our enthusiastic volunteers assembled and installed 14 brush bundles at 12 locations to enhance our fish habitat – when we add the bundles we installed last year, that totals about 35 brush bundles at 24 locations in our lake. Our fish thank you.



European Frogbit Eradication Project

*Submitted by Judy Hodgins
Chair, Aquatic Plants Sub-Committee*

A great deal of work was done on our ongoing project to remove the invasive species, European Frogbit, from Otter Lake. A total of 150 hours were devoted to the project in 2018, as compared to 80 hours in 2017. This was due in large part to the hard work and dedication of volunteers, campers &

Weather this year was definitely sunnier and warmer than last year – it was so nice that one of our volunteers went for a swim with the fish bundles.

We are looking forward to visiting some of the sites next June with RVCA to get even more incredible



video footage of the fish in and around these new habitats. If you didn't get a chance to see videos of the fish enjoying the new

fish habitats that was shown at the recent AGM, be sure to join us at the AGM next summer to see "Fish Videos – Part II"

We couldn't have accomplished what we did without the wonderful support we received. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to RVCA for their leadership,

Camp Otterdale for providing the work site/home base, rafts, boat, driver, yummy lunch and ongoing support as well as all the wonderful



volunteers who helped us with the brush bundle assembly and installation. Great job. THANK YOU!

counsellors from Camp Otterdale, as well as our partnership with the Rideau Valley



Conservation Authority for the hiring of a summer student with funding from the

Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters and a grant from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association. The majority of work was conducted on four beautiful summer days in the boat launch area, Barker's Creek and the bay between Dueces Lane and McCarthy Lane. We did see less Frogbit in the areas we concentrated on last year which was encouraging. Even more encouraging was the information I received from the Eagle Lake Property Owners' Association. While they removed the majority, but not all, of the European Frogbit from several areas of their lake, they were rewarded by finding no Frogbit at all in the same areas in the few years following their project. This is good news indeed and we hope we will see the same results for our considerable efforts. Removal will continue next year and with



fingers crossed we will triumph over this invasive species and show it who's boss!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Marcia Maxwell

What a beautiful summer this has been – well deserved after what we experienced last year. I have kept this message very short, as you can see, we had a rather jam packed newsletter for all of you this fall.

Most important, it is hard to believe but it has been 4 years since our last municipal election, and it is

that time again for all of you to get out and vote. They have made it really easy for us this time by offering an internet/phone option to vote. You should all have received your Voter Information Letter by now, if you are an eligible voter. If you have not received a letter of instruction with a unique pin number for you to use as an identifier that you are a resident of our community and eligible to vote then you need to contact Mary Ellen the Clerk at the Township to obtain the necessary information in order to vote.

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