

October 2, 2010

1. Council deals with numerous important issues such as; infrastructure, health care services, waste management and fire services, to name a few, on a long term basis. Providing these services is an ongoing challenge which continues from one four year Council mandate to subsequent councils.

I believe that one of the most important challenges facing Council over the next four years is to work cooperatively as a cohesive group to address the needs and concerns of all constituents. An open and honest approach to communication with all taxpayers and being prudent and fiscally responsible when setting budgets and spending tax dollars is critical. Without these attitudes and conditions, Council cannot truly serve the needs of Addington Highlands communities.

2. I understand that about 60% of residential property tax revenue within Addington Highlands comes from waterfront properties, both seasonal and permanent. I believe that the township can do a better job of communicating with seasonal property owners by keeping the website up to date, clear and detailed. Council members should be invited to attend Lake Association AGMs to be available to respond to the concerns of these seasonal taxpayers. Members of Lake Associations who have issues should be encouraged to direct phone calls, emails or letters to the Township requesting responses from their Councillors.

3. Over the next four years, growth in the Addington Highlands Township will likely be moderate and providing best value per tax dollar to our taxpayers will be the reality that Council will face. Future growth should be well planned and implemented in an environmentally responsible way, consistent with the Official Plan and all inherent by-laws. Possible additional revenue sources could be renewable energy projects such as wind farms and solar plants, additional small businesses such as restaurants or motels and eco-tours.

4. I put a high value on Lake Association input. Many association members are knowledgeable and capable people with varied backgrounds and areas of expertise which could be of great value to the working committees in our township. Despite distances, valid contributions can be made via phone calls, emails and letters. I think that lake association members should be encouraged to communicate their concerns and issues directly to Council. Representatives from lake associations may wish to attend Council meetings whenever possible to keep abreast of current issues.

5. I do support consolidated services. Currently, the townships of Addington Highlands and North Frontenac share fire and waste management services. Some other areas for consolidation might include police services and joint purchases of road maintenance equipment. Potential consolidation of services could be an integral part of budget preparations between the townships and would require consultation and analysis to ensure that this approach would be cost beneficial.

6. Lake plans are valuable documents that contain key information which can be used in the revision of the Official Plan and Zoning by-laws which will take place in 2011. I believe that lake associations should be encouraged to take an active role in these revisions by being involved in the Official Plan review and revision process. Planning strategies to help reconcile conflict between economic activities and the natural environment should be guided by open communication among all stakeholders and adherence to good planning practices and potential environmental impact assessments as required. I am committed to environmental sustainability in the following ways; working to achieve septic re-inspection, ensuring waterfront development meets all Official Plan standards and complies with environmental requirements, working towards having more materials accepted as recyclables and being open to considering alternative energy sources for township facilities. Sustainability must be maintained through proper environmental regulation and adherence to the Official Plan and zoning by-laws.

7. I do think that it is possible to achieve a better balance between regulation and enforcement. During my past tenure on Council, I was proactive in making sure that by-laws were enforced. My goal is to keep our township safe and to protect our environment. For example, the viability of consolidating building inspection and by-law enforcement with North Frontenac should be explored.

8. I fully agree that the Township can improve its communication practices. For example, minutes of all meetings should include more factual information and clearly state how decisions were reached during these meetings, i.e. how did each councillor vote on a particular issue. Council needs to be more transparent when reporting on budget decisions and spending practices. These details should be reported in a more timely fashion on the website.