



**NPLA 2026 Municipal Elections Questionnaire
City of Kawartha Lakes Candidate Responses**

The North Pigeon Lake Association (NPLA) represents its members in the Municipality of Trent Lakes and the City of Kawartha Lakes. NPLA supports actions that preserve and promote the welfare of the shoreline and the waters of north Pigeon Lake, its catchment area, and more broadly across Ontario. We also promote good government, including sound environmental stewardship.

Earlier this fall, we circulated a short questionnaire to municipal candidates in Trent Lakes and to Ward 2 candidates in Kawartha Lakes. The questionnaire focussed on environmental issues which are of interest to our members. We have collated the responses we received in the tables below, grouped by position sought.

Some candidates chose to answer each question separately; others chose to provide a general response. We have included those General Responses in each section of the tables. We have also indicated where a candidate has chosen not to respond to the questionnaire.

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City of Kawartha Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

City of Kawartha Lakes Ward 2 Councillor Candidate Responses

General Environmental Priorities There are many activities in our Municipality which impact our environment either directly or indirectly (e.g. waste management, quarries, forest management, shoreline development, new purchases of municipal vehicles and equipment, and new municipal facilities, etc.). Many of the outcomes of these activities can contribute to, and be exacerbated by, climate change. Given that our Municipality has a limited tax base to fund actions, what are your priorities for protecting the environment of our Municipality?	
Terry Blackmore	Protecting our lakes, shorelines, forests and agricultural lands is essential to our quality of life and local economy. Having grown up in Ward 2, I value these natural areas and the responsibility we share to preserve them. My number one priority for taxpayers is affordability and keeping tax increases low. I would apply my smart spending approach to environmental protection: focus on practical actions that deliver measurable benefits and make every dollar count. The City should lead by example by reducing fuel consumption through clear vehicle idling policies, monitoring compliance and choosing fuel-efficient vehicles suited to the work. Reducing energy consumption across municipal buildings and operations should also be a priority. I would use simple Total Quality Management tools to identify waste, compare options and rank priorities according to environmental impact, cost-effectiveness and urgency. We should measure current performance, set achievable goals and track results to confirm that investments deliver the expected value. Protecting water quality, natural shorelines, forests and agricultural lands remains essential. Our limited resources must go where they provide the greatest benefit—protecting our environment while respecting residents' rights and ability to pay.
Karina Gaudier	With a limited tax base, environmental protection cannot be an expensive afterthought; it must be built directly into municipal operations and balance sheets. My priorities focus on cost-effective, high-impact stewardship: 1. Lifecycle Infrastructure Resilience: Severe weather directly threatens our budget. I will ensure all capital works (culverts, roads, and bridges) are engineered for climate resilience from day one. Preventing catastrophic storm damage through durable engineering is far cheaper than emergency repairs and reconstruction after the fact. 2. Protecting Natural Shoreline Assets: Our lakes and waterways are the core of our local ecology and tourism economy. Preserving natural buffers and mature shoreline tree canopies provides natural stormwater management and erosion control at zero cost to taxpayers. I prioritize rigorous enforcement of existing shoreline protections, zoning standards, and responsible development bylaws.

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	3. Smart Procurement and Waste Reduction: As part of my "Zero-Waste" audit philosophy, new purchases of municipal vehicles, equipment, and facilities must be evaluated by total lifecycle operating costs, including fuel efficiency and maintenance. Cutting municipal energy waste and expanding diversion in municipal facilities reduces carbon emissions while actively saving taxpayer dollars.
Pat Warren	I have been working on the Climate Strategy and if elected, I will ensure that adaptation and mitigation parts within the plan are addressed. The changes are affecting all of us. In particular, I would like to "green" the fleet to lower our impact! I would also like to see emergency shelters so the most vulnerable are cared for during events like the ice storm. Also, I will make sure EAC continues so we can address tree and shoreline bylaws that we are working on now. (N.B. Candidate provided an overall response to the questionnaire.)
Climate Change Priorities Climate change is already producing more extreme weather events which can contribute to declining water quality, increased shoreline erosion, and heighten the need for weather-related disaster mitigation and preparedness. In the last few years locally, we've experienced ice storms, heavy rains and high waters, wind storms, and extreme heat and fire risk. If elected, what actions do you propose we take at the municipal level to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change?	
Terry Blackmore	Climate change requires practical action to reduce emissions and prepare our communities for severe weather. My immediate priority would be strengthening emergency preparedness for storms, flooding, prolonged power outages, extreme heat and wildfire. I would advocate for designated community emergency locations with reliable backup power, essential facilities and clear operating plans. Roads, drainage systems and access for emergency responders must also be part of that preparation. The City should lead by example through building energy efficiency, reduced vehicle idling and more efficient equipment. I support rooftop solar where it is practical and offers a demonstrated payback. Vehicle and equipment purchases should be based on proven performance, operating requirements and total lifetime costs. We should establish measurable goals and publicly report results. Affordability must guide implementation, with assistance directed to residents who need it rather than expecting struggling households to subsidize those who can afford improvements themselves.
Karina Gaudier	Municipal climate action must be grounded in physical readiness and financial stability. Extreme weather is not just an environmental issue; it is a direct threat to our municipal infrastructure, public safety, and budget. Here are the real, cost-effective actions I propose we take at the municipal level to mitigate and adapt: 1. Proactive Infrastructure Engineering: We cannot afford to rebuild washed-out roads and flooded bridges twice. I will mandate that all new capital

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	works and road resurfacing projects include extreme-weather resiliency standards from day one. 2. "Zero-Waste" Municipal Operations: We can lower our carbon footprint while saving taxpayer dollars. Through my proposed "Zero-Waste" operational audits, we will identify energy inefficiencies in municipal buildings, optimize our city fleet routes to reduce fuel consumption, and eliminate wasteful procurement practices. 3. Inclusive Emergency Preparedness: When ice storms or extreme heat hit Kawartha Lakes, our most vulnerable residents (seniors, those with disabilities, and individuals with mental health challenges) are at the greatest risk. I will advocate for updating our emergency response protocols to ensure that crisis communications, evacuation plans, and municipal cooling/warming centers are fully accessible and equipped to support neurodivergent and vulnerable populations.
Pat Warren	I have been working on the Climate Strategy and if elected, I will ensure that adaptation and mitigation parts within the plan are addressed. The changes are affecting all of us. In particular, I would like to "green" the fleet to lower our impact! I would also like to see emergency shelters so the most vulnerable are cared for during events like the ice storm. Also, I will make sure EAC continues so we can address tree and shoreline bylaws that we are working on now. (N.B. Candidate provided an overall response to the questionnaire.)
Environmental Advisory Committee For a number of years, the City of Kawartha Lakes has had an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), which includes members of the public who provide advice on environmental matters to Municipal Council. The EAC has championed a number of initiatives and provided advice on a number of topics to council over the years. Do you favour continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee for the City of Kawartha Lakes? If so, what do you see as priority areas for the committee to focus on?	
Terry Blackmore	Yes. I support continuing the Environmental Advisory Committee. Residents bring valuable knowledge and experience, and Council benefits from informed advice. I would favour a focused work plan addressing water quality, natural shoreline protection, tree canopy, waste reduction and practical municipal energy savings. The committee should work with lake associations, conservation authorities and other relevant partners. Its recommendations should clearly explain the evidence, anticipated benefits, costs and implementation requirements. Council should respond to those recommendations and report on resulting actions. Public participation should help produce decisions and measurable improvements.
Karina Gaudier	Yes, I absolutely favour continuing with the Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC). Advisory committees that bring citizen expertise directly into municipal governance are incredibly valuable. When citizens step up to advise Council and educate the public on local issues, they bridge the gap between City Hall and the actual realities on the ground, saving the municipality

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	both time and consulting fees. The CKLEAC's work in monitoring and developing new environmental initiatives is a great asset to Kawartha Lakes. If elected, I see two priority areas where the CKLEAC should focus its expertise to generate maximum value for the taxpayer and the environment: 1. Sustainability Plan: The CKLEAC's mandate includes assisting Council with the implementation of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). My priority is ensuring this plan is executed with clear targets and strategies, particularly concerning our natural systems such as our wetlands, forests, and biodiversity, which are currently facing threats from development pressures and invasive species. The committee must prioritize holding Council accountable for tangible results within the ICSP, ensuring environmental policies translate into measurable actions rather than remaining abstract goals. 2. Capital Projects: Resource consumption is a critical issue that intersects directly with fiscal discipline. A key priority for the committee should be advising on the reduction of resource consumption across municipal operations, particularly concerning our aging infrastructure, public services, and facilities. Furthermore, the committee should focus heavily on waste diversion strategies, prioritizing composting, reuse, and recycling programs to reduce the strain on our landfills. By focusing on these areas, the CKLEAC can help the municipality lower its carbon footprint while identifying operational efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars.
Pat Warren	I have been working on the Climate Strategy and if elected, I will ensure that adaptation and mitigation parts within the plan are addressed. The changes are affecting all of us. In particular, I would like to "green" the fleet to lower our impact! I would also like to see emergency shelters so the most vulnerable are cared for during events like the ice storm. Also, I will make sure EAC continues so we can address tree and shoreline bylaws that we are working on now. (N.B. Candidate provided an overall response to the questionnaire.)
Natural Shorelines and Tree Canopy Protection Increasingly, new construction or redevelopment of shoreline properties in our Municipality includes the removal of shoreline vegetation and clear cutting of trees. These actions can result in increased erosion, siltation, and nutrient migration that impact water quality and destroy wildlife habitat. This issue has been a focus of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) who have encouraged Council to develop a policy to "protect and enhance the tree canopy" in its next term. If elected, would you support the development of a Tree Preservation Bylaw? Why or why not?	
Terry Blackmore	Yes. I would support developing a carefully targeted Tree Preservation Bylaw, particularly to address unnecessary clearing along sensitive shorelines. Natural shoreline vegetation helps protect water quality, stabilize banks and preserve wildlife habitat. Preventing damage is preferable to leaving residents and taxpayers with costly restoration work later. Before supporting the final bylaw, I would examine its scope, costs and enforceability. It should be developed through consultation with shoreline residents, lake associations, farmers, Indigenous communities and conservation authorities.

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	The rules should be clear and proportionate, with sensible provisions for hazardous trees, emergency work, routine maintenance and legitimate agricultural and forestry activities. Any approval process should be timely and affordable. My objective would be effective environmental protection that respects property owners and avoids unnecessary administrative burdens.
Karina Gaudier	I support the development of a highly targeted Tree Preservation By-law, specifically focused on shoreline redevelopment, large-scale construction, and municipal properties, rather than imposing blanket restrictions on individual private homeowners. As a candidate focused on compliance governance and fiscal discipline, I base my policies on practical execution and community consensus. Recently, public feedback in Kawartha Lakes indicated strong opposition to a by-law that regulates tree removal on general private property, prompting Council in September 2024 to narrow the policy's focus strictly to development contexts. I agree with this refined approach. Here is why a targeted shoreline and development tree by-law is essential for our municipality: • Zero-Cost Natural Infrastructure: Mature trees and shoreline vegetation provide critical erosion control and prevent nutrient migration at absolutely no cost to the municipal taxpayer. Preserving this natural infrastructure is far cheaper than funding municipal stormwater remediation and water quality interventions after clear-cutting occurs. • Accountability in Development: The municipality currently does not regulate or restrict the destruction of trees on privately-owned property. By implementing a by-law focused specifically on developers and new construction, we establish clear, measurable compliance frameworks that protect the environment during major land alterations without burdening everyday homeowners with bureaucratic red tape. • Protecting Municipal Assets: I strongly support frameworks that regulate tree preservation on city-owned waterfront blocks and road allowances. Under such a policy, if developers or members of the public require tree removal on municipal land for vehicular access or construction, they must compensate the City, ensuring our tree canopy is funded and protected. By focusing strict enforcement on major developments and vulnerable shorelines, we can protect the pristine water quality that drives our local tourism economy while respecting individual property rights.
Pat Warren	I have been working on the Climate Strategy and if elected, I will ensure that adaptation and mitigation parts within the plan are addressed. The changes are affecting all of us. In particular, I would like to “green” the fleet to lower our impact! I would also like to see emergency shelters so the most vulnerable are cared for during events like the ice storm. Also, I will make sure EAC continues so we can address tree and shoreline bylaws that we are working on now. (N.B. Candidate provided an overall response to the questionnaire.)