



NPLA 2026 Municipal Elections Questionnaire Municipality of Trent 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.

Note: Candidates for Trent Lakes Mayor (Terry Lambshead) and Deputy Mayor (John Braybrook) were acclaimed.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

Municipality of Trent Lakes Councillor-at-Large 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?	
Carol Armstrong	There are many actions the Municipality is already taking to help protect the environment, that do not incur any or significant expense. Currently, a few of these are: Energy Reduction Plans, Emission Reduction Plans, annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions reports, flood hazard mapping, Active Transportation Plans, Fleet Management Strategy, Facilities Replacement Plan, Septic reinspections and new protections in the Official Plan. Additionally, there continues to be a strong focus on waste management, diversion and organics streams. (Trent Lakes leads the County in highest waste diversion and lowest waste per capita.) Over the last term, an Environmental Advisory Committee was created. It was very successful, as noted in the answer to question 3. Going forward, my priorities include: • Continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee – completing the outstanding items and adding new ones • Reinstating a discretionary Septic Inspection Program • Ensuring the revised Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Amendment includes adequate environmental protections • Holding public meetings and pass a Shoreline Protection Bylaw • Continue to support NFP environmental initiatives through our \$60,000+ Community Grant Program • Relook at the Fireworks Bylaw to consider phasing in a ban (except for permits) • Continue support for protecting the Catchacoma Forest
Janet Clarkson	Expedite the construction of satellite depots in Galway and Cavendish these outdated facilities are energy pigs Encourage wind and solar units to be placed on spent quarrie land.
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.	

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

If elected, what actions do you propose we take at the municipal level to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change?	
Carol Armstrong	Actions should include • Utilize the results of flood mapping on Nogies Creek and Miiskwa Ziibi to guide future development for those 300+ properties • Reconsider a Fireworks Ban • Continue education on FireSmart and other preventive actions individual homeowners should take • Hold community information sessions on emergency preparedness • Establish “comfort centres” for residents to use during emergencies for showers, meals, recharging electronics, etc. • In advance, publish evacuation routes, location of comfort centres, official communication channels
Janet Clarkson	I have been in consultation with our fire chief and I propose we lobby the provincial gov't for more pro action on wildfires, We are surrounded by thousands of acres of crown land which has been broken by a tornado and devastated by an ice storm. These areas are ripe for fire, and our response team should be far more able to respond to small fires before they become large ones. Cutbacks to programs in the past few years have left municipalities extremely vulnerable. On a local level we should keep our eves troughs free from pine needles, fireplaces famously spew sparks and don't place fireplace ashes outside on wooden decks, close to your residence. Keep brush far away from your home.
Environmental Advisory Committee The previous Council re-instated an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which includes members of the public who provide advice on environmental matters to Municipal Council. The EAC established an ambitious agenda and made progress on a number of objectives, but much remains to be done. Do you favour continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Trent Lakes? If so, what do you see as priority areas for the committee to focus on?	
Carol Armstrong	Absolutely yes! This was a committee with expertise that delivered specific outputs to augment what staff can do. Deliverables included: • Completed an inventory of all 45+ lakes in the municipality and through outreach, now has all populated lakes doing water quality testing and participating in the provincial MOEC Lake Partner Program • Distributed to all taxpayers educational brochures on Protecting their Lakes and Shorelines and Minimizing Light Pollution. (Also given to all new property owners.) • Competed a Light Audit of all municipal buildings with suggestions to reduce light pollution • Worked with staff to draft a Shoreline Protection Bylaw and to add Light Pollution into the Nuisance Bylaw

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	- Added a section on every Staff report for "Environmental Considerations" Unfinished work of the EAC includes: - Preparing Trent Lakes Forest Inventory - Including unnecessary and intrusive lighting into the Nuisance Bylaw - Tree Protection Bylaw proposal - Updating Lake Quality indicators
Janet Clarkson	Yes! I favour advisory committees in many areas. Air B&B's are a challenge, and local input can highlight and recommend changes to this program ex. Place the same requirements on them that legitimate businesses must follow - regular water testing, - private garbage removal. The amount that weekenders produce in garbage should not fall on our municipality - make firework's illegal except for Canada day and then only by licensed operators. Our lakes don't need to ingest more chemical's, loons are nocturnal and their nesting habit's are extremely disrupted. Commercial grade fireworks are now available at many gas stations and should not be handled by the public in general - make fines steep enough that a bylaw officer can be paid to do the job on weekends when the problem is most prevalent
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. To address this issue, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) worked to provide information via an excellent webpage (Ctrl+Click) and flyer (Ctrl+Click) as well as developing a draft Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw. Council deferred consultation and passage of the bylaw to the next Council. If elected, would you move ahead with consultation and passage of the Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw? Why or why not?	
Carol Armstrong	I worked extensively to research and help draft the Shoreline Protections Bylaw that has been deferred. I believe having a means to protect and/or restore natural shorelines <i>is one of the most important actions</i> we need to take to ensure the continued health and quality of our water bodies, an immensely valuable asset. If re-elected it will be a priority to reintroduce the draft Bylaw and develop a schedule for public consultation, revisions and presentation to Council for approval. The Bylaw is intended to be used in conjunction with educational tools to inform and guide future management of our shorelines.
Janet Clarkson	I will have to look at this recommendation closely hear horror stories where problem trees are allowed to stand without practical oversight as to the risk etc. I favour recommendation of tree varies for planting so as not to produce a problem in the future. Many people who are from the cities develop properties rurally whether shoreline or not have no knowledge as to the types of trees which will impact their wells and septic tanks. I favour septic tank regular

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	inspection but only by people who are qualified and give a proper inspection. I strongly believe in a practical approach. One size does not fit all. Proper shoreline development can be an improvement and often the folks who want very stringent rules have already done to their property everything they desire. Don't get me wrong, I don't think development should have no guidelines. But proper development can get rid of old or non-functioning septic systems. Improvements to drainage so that runoffs don't pick up wastes and take it to the lakes. I grew up with my father being a guide and he dipped his pail in the water to make tea and no one ever thought of not drinking the lake water. Cutting down a tree didn't create our problems. Septic, animal pollution from boaters climate change causing water to warm and expedite the growth of weeds which slowed down water movement causing algae etc. No simple solution! I wrote a book for the Trent many years ago called it's "all about the water" where I was the water putting up with all that people were doling to me! Filling gas cans at docks throwing garbage from boats emptying gray water, Idling motors so the exhaust forms scum on the lake. Overuse of fertilizers close to the water the list goes on. We all have a responsibility. Without clean water, we can't grow food, feed animals and have a safe sustainable water supply in other words it is our ability to survive!
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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

Municipality of Trent Lakes - Harvey Ward 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?	
Peter Franzen	As a candidate for Harvey Ward, my environmental approach centres on practical, cost-effective stewardship that balances fiscal responsibility with long-term protection of our lakes, shorelines, and forests. Priorities include: ● Water Quality & Lake Health: Partnering with lake associations like the NPLA to monitor water quality, prevent toxic algae blooms, and protect key catchment areas across Pigeon Lake and neighbouring waterways. ● Sustainable Infrastructure Upgrades: Integrating eco-friendly and energy-efficient standards into scheduled municipal equipment and facility renewals, leveraging provincial and federal green infrastructure grants whenever possible. ● Responsible Land Use & Waste Reduction: Promoting waste diversion, responsible quarry management, and smart growth policies that preserve tree canopy, wetland habitat, and natural shorelines from unmitigated development.
Laurie Riley	Trent Lakes does have a limited tax base. For Capital Projects there are only 2 cents on every dollar dedicated so it's a difficult decision to select which project moves forward and what the priorities are until I can see the overall picture of where the Municipality stands. Saying that, it is common sense and logical for me to say that we need to preserve the natural beauty of our environment. There is a section on every staff report to Council that specifically identifies any environmental impact. I believe this is important because often items may be overlooked when projects come forward.
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?	
Peter Franzen	With our community facing increasingly frequent severe weather events, local action must focus on resilience and proactive emergency planning: ● Emergency Preparedness & Infrastructure Resilience: Strengthening municipal storm response protocols, upgrading culverts and stormwater infrastructure to handle extreme precipitation, and improving local emergency response readiness for severe weather and wildfire risks.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	● Flood & Erosion Mitigation: Preserving natural buffers along waterbodies and wetlands, which serve as nature's primary defence against shoreline erosion and extreme high-water levels. ● Community & First Nations Collaboration: Working alongside neighbouring municipalities, First Nations partners, and local volunteer emergency groups to coordinate climate adaptation strategies across the regional watershed.
Laurie Riley	All over the World there has been weather-related disasters, including in our area such as the recent ice storm. I believe it is important for our emergency services, including government to regularly run through “scenarios” to ensure everyone knows what they should be doing. Also encouraging residents to have a 72-hour emergency kit on hand is vital. We have strong knit communities in Trent Lakes, each one should develop their own networking to ensure the vulnerable are identified and looked after. I understand that all Community Centres will soon have their own generator so they can be the safe gathering space for the residents in the event of power outages. The Municipality has an obligation to support those initiatives.
Environmental Advisory Committee The previous Council re-instated an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which includes members of the public who provide advice on environmental matters to Municipal Council. The EAC established an ambitious agenda and made progress on a number of objectives, but much remains to be done. Do you favour continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Trent Lakes? If so, what do you see as priority areas for the committee to focus on?	
Peter Franzen	Yes, I fully favour continuing the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). The insights and community involvement provided by the EAC are vital to making informed, evidence-based decisions at the Council table. Key priorities for the EAC should include: ● Pursuing "Bird-Friendly Municipality" Designation: Working in partnership with Nature Canada and local naturalists to achieve Nature Canada's <i>Bird Friendly City/Town</i> certification through habitat protection, light-pollution reduction, native planting, and citizen science programs. ● Community Outreach & Stewardship: Expanding public education campaigns on native planting, invasive species control, and voluntary shoreline naturalisation. ● Climate Adaptation & Canopy Health: Assisting Council in developing clear guidelines for tree canopy retention and long-term climate resilience tailored to Trent Lakes' rural and waterfront geography.
Laurie Riley	As mentioned, Trent Lakes has a limited tax base and budget. The municipality should be supporting the Environmental Advisory Committee to actively investigate and pursue alternative funding sources such as grants. Of the priorities identified by the Committee, I believe the first one should be outreach and education. Creating a fun and interactive presentation to the local schools and to stewardship events. This creates a domino effect of information. The younger generation are eager to learn and will take the information back home to their families.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

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. To address this issue, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) worked to provide information via an excellent [webpage](#) (Ctrl+Click) and [flyer](#) (Ctrl+Click) as well as developing a draft Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw. Council deferred consultation and passage of the bylaw to the next Council.

If elected, would you move ahead with consultation and passage of the Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw? Why or why not?

Peter Franzen	I support moving forward with comprehensive public consultation, but my focus is on leading with education, incentives, and clear guidance rather than heavy-handed legislation. ● Why Education First Works Best: Waterfront owners care deeply about the health of our lakes. Lasting environmental protection happens when residents understand the science and feel empowered as stewards, not overburdened by rigid restrictions. ● Collaborative Consultation: Public consultation must be a true dialogue. Before passing any restrictive bylaw, we should prioritize expanded educational materials, voluntary shoreline restoration programs, and practical resources that help property owners manage their land sustainably. ● Targeted Protection: Any future regulatory framework should be simple, practical, and targeted specifically at preventing catastrophic clear-cutting and unmitigated commercial over-development, while preserving property owners' reasonable flexibility to maintain their homes and enjoyment of their waterfront.
Laurie Riley	I believe Trent Lakes is at a pivotal point when it comes to diversification of the tax base and desperately needs a balanced Economic Development strategy. I believe information is power and providing the importance of preserving shorelines is important. However, I don't feel that the municipality has a right to dictate on how a property owner having a lake or river front should develop or not develop the shoreline. There are too many opinions, desires, wants and needs to make everyone happy and I believe it would be a nightmare to enforce and may also detract real estate purchases. Of course there are things that we can enforce like placement of a proper septic system and use of fertilizers near the water.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

Municipality of Trent Lakes – Galway-Cavendish 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?	
Joe Cadigan	No Response
Caroline McGee	I believe our environmental priorities must focus on practical actions that protect Trent Lakes and provide value for taxpayers. 1. Staff reports to Council must respond to the question of how the report will impact the environment. These reports require more consideration for how the natural environment will be impacted by the recommendations being made, positively and negatively, 2. Community Grants fuel our volunteers and community organizations. This program has been over-subscribed and under-funded for too long and needs to be expanded to include environmental initiatives like the abandoned dock program and the elimination of Styrofoam in our lakes. How do we do this? Trent Lakes overtaxed residents by \$2.16 million over the last 5 years. Let's make this money work for the community, and include an environmental stream. Let's create a reserve dedicated to the Community Grants Program to support taxpayers and the volunteers who support Trent Lakes. A legacy fund that will take Trent Lakes to new heights. I want the next term of Council to be focused on the taxpayers. 3. I support protecting our lakes, rivers, forests and shoreline areas through responsible planning and development policies. Healthy lakes and forests are fundamental to our community, its' residents and the local economy. Decisions about shoreline development, quarries, forestry and new development should consider the long-term environmental impacts and include meaningful consultation with stakeholders, lake associations and the community at large. 4. I would look for opportunities to improve waste management, recycling and municipal operations, including reducing waste and improving the efficiency of municipal facilities, vehicles and equipment. When replacing municipal assets, we should consider functionality, performance, energy efficiency, lifecycle costs and environmental impacts. 5. I would support incorporating environmental and climate considerations into our long-term financial and infrastructure planning. A Financial Master Plan and Facilities/Asset Management Plan should identify where investments can reduce future operating costs, improve resilience and avoid unnecessary expenses.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	I believe we should work collaboratively with residents, lake associations, conservation organizations, the County and other levels of government to pursue grants and partnerships wherever possible. With limited municipal resources, we need to leverage outside funding rather than relying solely on property tax dollars. My approach would be to protect our natural environment, plan for the future and spend taxpayer dollars responsibly. Environmental protection should be integrated into how we make municipal decisions - not treated as a separate issue.
Ira Peters	My approach would be simple: protect what we have, prevent environmental damage where we can, use good planning, and make environmentally responsible choices when they also make financial sense. With a limited tax base, I believe we need to concentrate our resources on actions that provide a clear and lasting benefit to Trent Lakes.
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?	
Joe Cadigan	No Response
Caroline McGee	Climate change requires us to be realistic about what a municipality can control while preparing for the impacts we are already experiencing. With a limited tax base, I would focus on practical measures that improve community resilience while providing long- term value for taxpayers. First, I would support incorporating climate resilience into our infrastructure and asset management planning. Roads, bridges, culverts, drainage systems and municipal facilities should be assessed for their ability to withstand heavy rainfall, flooding, extreme heat, ice storms and high winds. Planning for these risks when infrastructure is repaired or replaced can help prevent much larger costs in the future. Second, I would support stronger emergency preparedness and communication. Working with the County, emergency services, the OPP, fire departments and community organizations, we should ensure residents have clear information about emergency preparedness, evacuation procedures, severe weather alerts and available resources during events such as wildfires, floods and extended power outages. Third, protecting our lakes, shorelines, forests and natural areas is an important part of adaptation. Healthy natural systems can help manage stormwater, reduce erosion and protect water quality. Municipal planning and development decisions should consider these long-term impacts. Finally, where practical and financially responsible, I would look for opportunities to reduce municipal energy consumption and operating costs through energy-efficient buildings, equipment and vehicles. I would also actively pursue

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	provincial and federal grants and partnerships so that taxpayers are not carrying the full cost of climate-related infrastructure improvements. My approach would be simple: prepare for the risks we know are coming, protect the natural assets that make Trent Lakes resilient, and make financially responsible decisions that reduce future costs for taxpayers.
Ira Peters	I believe climate action at the municipal level should be practical, affordable and measurable. We need to protect our environment, but we also have to be responsible with taxpayers' money. My priority would be to invest in measures that improve the community's resilience, protect our water and natural environment, and reduce the costs and risks associated with extreme weather.
Environmental Advisory Committee The previous Council re-instated an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) which includes members of the public who provide advice on environmental matters to Municipal Council. The EAC established an ambitious agenda and made progress on a number of objectives, but much remains to be done. Do you favour continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Trent Lakes? If so, what do you see as priority areas for the committee to focus on?	
Joe Cadigan	No Response
Caroline McGee	Yes. I favour continuing with an Environmental Advisory Committee and expanding it to include representation from every lake association in Trent Lakes. I would request that EAC develop their priorities for the next 4 years in consultation with the entire community and present them to Council. While I appreciate the question and being asked what I believe the priorities to be, as an elected representative, I see my role as one to ensure everyone is included in the process to promote collaboration and inclusiveness.
Ira Peters	The EAC should complement, not duplicate, the work of municipal staff and other agencies. Its role should be to bring local knowledge, research, and practical recommendations to Council. My approach would be to support environmental protection while recognizing that Trent Lakes is a large rural municipality with unique challenges. Good environmental policy should be practical, financially responsible, and focused on protecting the natural resources that make Trent Lakes such a special place to live.
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. To address this issue, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) worked to provide information via an excellent webpage (Ctrl+Click) and flyer (Ctrl+Click) as well as developing a draft Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw. Council deferred consultation and passage of the bylaw to the next Council. If elected, would you move ahead with consultation and passage of the Shoreline and Tree Protection Bylaw? Why or why not?	
Joe Cadigan	No Response
Caroline McGee	Protecting shoreline vegetation and mature trees is important to reducing erosion, protecting water quality and preserving wildlife habitat.

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Municipality of Trent Lakes Candidate Responses (cont'd)

	Before passage, I would support a transparent, community-based consultation process, including: • Publishing the draft bylaw and plain-language information on the municipal website. • Holding public meetings or open houses in different parts of the municipality. • Seeking written feedback through an online survey and formal submission period. • Consulting directly with shoreline property owners, lake associations, environmental organizations and municipal staff. • Reviewing the feedback publicly and making appropriate revisions before Council considers the final bylaw. The objective should be a fair, practical and enforceable bylaw, with clear expectations and reasonable exemptions that protects our lakes and natural environment while respecting property owners.
Ira Peters	Yes, my objective would be to protect our shorelines and tree canopy without creating unnecessary red tape. If the consultation demonstrates that the proposed bylaw can achieve that balance, I would support bringing it forward for passage. Protecting the natural character and water quality of Trent Lakes is a long-term responsibility. I believe we should act, but we should do it carefully, transparently and with the community involved in the process.