

2018 HBM Municipal Election Information for Property Owners

The election for township council will take place in October 2018. Here is what the BLCA believes is very important for you to know and do to make the township a better place for us all:

Step 1: Confirm you are on the voters' list:

All members are encouraged to confirm that they are on the voting register for the election as soon as possible at www.hbmtwp.ca or by calling 1-866-296-6722. You will need your roll number on your tax bill. Contact the township Clerk (Bob Angione at 705-778-2308 Ext 226) if you have any questions.

Step 2: Decide who gets your vote.

Your BLCA board, in conjunction with the HBMLA (the other lake associations in the township), prepared questions for candidates, organized All Candidate meetings and assessed the responses, both written and spoken. The following are key issues of particular concern for our members, along with information to help you make your voting decision. Note that Jim Collins who is running for Deputy Mayor did not have a detailed response to HBMLA questions and did not show at the first two All Candidates meetings. We do not have enough information to comment on Jim Collins as Deputy Mayor.

- **Healthy waterfront environments:** Most candidates are either members of our lake association or another lake association in the township or have a significant connection to lakes. Their responses to written and spoken questions did not identify a clear superior candidate – they say the lake environment is important and will work to assure continued healthy water. They have committed to working with HBMLA to develop an effective septic re-inspection program.
- **Fiscal responsibility:** All candidates committed to spending tax money wisely and to establish a consistent review schedule to enable lake property owners to participate in the budgeting process. However, there have been large increases in tax levies over the last four years which suggests that a better approach is needed.
- **Collaborative working relationship with cottagers:** Due to the ward system, we are able to vote for only 4 of the 5 positions on council. We believe that this needs to change for next election so we can vote for all 5 positions. Members of the current council say they are willing to discuss this change. Most other candidates are committed to implementing this change.

- **Ensuring a positive work environment for township staff:** Over the past four years, 10 staff members have left HBM. We believe the new council needs to commit to identifying and resolving the root cause of this. They then need to develop policies and programs which will enable them to hire and retain capable staff.

We encourage all BLCA members to review the specific questions the candidates were asked and their written responses. Those are available on the BLCA website. We urge our members to contact candidates directly to ask questions and decide for themselves who would be the best choice for them. **But it is vitally important to vote to show council that we are interested in what they do and want to be part of making the township a better place. We have a stronger voice if we have a higher voter turnout.**

The Candidates

We believe that all candidates for which you are able to vote are solid citizens who are willing to dedicate considerable time and effort well beyond the modest compensation they would earn as councillors.

Mayor: Jim Martin (currently Deputy Mayor); Andy Sharpe (formerly Deputy Mayor)

Deputy Mayor: Jim Collins; David Gerow (currently a councillor)

Councillor at Large: Amanda O'Rourke; Hart Webb (currently a councillor, BLCA member)

Councillor Township Ward: Larry Ellis (formerly a councillor, BLCA member); Kelly Falls

Step 3: Look for the voting instructions mailed from the Township

In mid-September, the township will mail voting instructions to registered voters. The mailing will include all the instructions you need to cast your vote. **You will have the option to vote on-line, by telephone or in person in Havelock. You will not be able to vote at all if you do not have this mailed information.** There will be a 2 week window to vote and we encourage you to vote well before the last day for voting: October 22, 2018.