

From: <tembar@onlink.net>
Date: October 9, 2010 10:37:49 AM EDT (CA)
To: Gaye Smith <gayesmith@onlink.net>
Subject: Re: Questions
Reply-To: tembar@onlink.net

On Wed Oct 6 9:47 , Gaye Smith <gayesmith@onlink.net> sent:

Good Morning,

I would like to thank you for providing your email address so that I could ask you the following questions. I do realize you will be very busy with the election but if you are able to answer the questions I will forward your answers to as many contacts as I possibly can. Hopefully that will provide some added exposure for your effort.

Gaye Smith

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1. Would you be in favour of mainland development on Lake Temagami?

No. This issue goes to the Tenets which were agreed to by the previous Township prior to Amalgamation and which form one of the conditions for Amalgamation in the eyes of the vast majority of Lake Temagami residents. This Principle will need to be supported at the Planning Advisory Committee, at the Council table, and defended, if necessary, at the Ontario Municipal Board. As Mayor, I will do my part to support and defend the Tenets.

2. Would you be committed to reduce the tax burden imposed on cottage property by the MPAC assessment?

Yes. It won't be easy and it won't happen overnight. The Municipality's discretionary spending only accounts for about 20% of the total budget. We are obligated to maintain and refurbish our Public Works with trained and licensed staff. Transparent and accountable government must be preserved. On the other hand, costs will be managed by first identifying what they are and secondly by applying this information to a Municipal Service Review in consultation with affected residents. Infrastructure funding applications will be supported by proper engineering and design work that reflect our highest community priorities. Tax fairness will be implemented by providing relief to property taxpayers to a more balanced blend including user fees and levies. New revenues will be collected using best practices from other Municipalities. Partnerships with neighbouring municipalities will be organized to more effectively lobby senior levels of government for relief from downloading and for more reliable transfer payments. A steady hand on the tiller over the long term will turn our situation around but we need to get started now.

3. Would you be committed to improving the access road, parking and docking facilities for Lake Temagami and other area lakes where they are necessities?

The scale of these facilities and their level of maintenance must bear some resemblance to the amount of assessment they serve and the traffic that goes through. Where the tax base is small, the municipality could assist local residents with a partnership arrangement. Other areas like Lake Temagami have a large tax base and a high number of non-resident users to potentially contribute user fees so the municipality can provide a wider range of services on its own. Once a landing is assumed by the Municipality, it has an obligation to properly maintain and refurbish that landing; to ensure that the facilities are adequate for the traffic; and to make certain that

these activities are financially sustainable. Council should develop a policy for assuming new access points rather deciding on a case by case basis.

4. [Would you be interested in considering the impact of house boats on Lake Temagami?](#)

In the past, houseboat operators have listened to the concerns of residents regarding party noise, mooring in very close proximity to cottages, competition for campsites, and potential pollution of the water and some have voluntarily addressed these concerns through the installation of holding tanks and the screening of clients. I would prefer that an organisation enter into a respectful dialogue with operators to voice their concerns or to obtain assurance that previous concerns are being addressed. Any problem should be well defined before the Municipality gets involved and only as a last resort.

[Thanks Again and all the best in the election.](#)