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To: Gaye Smith <gayesmith@onlink.net>

Subject: Re: Questions

Hi Gaye: Below are my answers to your questions. I have also attached a couple of documents that I reference in my answers.

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

NO. I am not in favour of mainland development on Lake Temagami. I don't believe there are "issues on the table to be discussed or taken into consideration" as some think. This is another way of saying "I support mainland development under certain conditions". I disagree with this statement. You can't have "a little" mainland development and not expect there to be more mainland development.

In March 2009 the MNR asked Council for their opinion on whether the crown land reserve at Ferguson Point on the mainland of Lake Temagami should be sold or not. The Planning Advisory Committee (after much research) recommended to Council that it not be sold because of all the policies supporting no mainland development. The vote by Council to support PAC's recommendation was 3 to 2 in favour. It was that close; Councillors Biff Lowery, Lorie Hunter and Mayor Laba voted in favour of the resolution. Councillor Barry Graham and Wendell Gustavson did not. (resolution and letter attached)

No mainland development is one of the Tenets for Lake Temagami that were adopted by the Township of Temagami before amalgamation, and certainly, for the Lake Temagami community one of the cornerstones of amalgamation. We need to keep our promises or no one will trust us.

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

We have certainly seen a dramatic rise in waterfront property assessments. Mainland properties not on waterfront have not had the same increases – in fact some urban property assessments have actually decreased. The increase in waterfront property and stable or decreasing urban assessments has created an assessment imbalance in our community. The waterfront property owners are carrying a larger share of the municipal tax burden. User fees and area rated charges are a couple of the ways to deal with this imbalance. We certainly need to take a harder look at user fees for services and also look for new sources of revenue to help relieve the burden on our taxpayers.

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?

We are a lake based community. Our taxpayers and residents need to be able to access parking and docking facilities on our area lakes. These landings need to be maintained to a certain standard – one that we can afford. We don't actually know the true costs for maintaining any of these landings – the operational costs or the capital costs. Changes have been made to the internal reporting system so we are now able to track our costs for these services. Once we know the real costs we will then be able to decide what level of service we can afford and who should be paying for it.

I strongly believe that non-taxpayers need to start paying user fees for the services they use and our landings are a good example of that. The taxpayers of Temagami can no longer afford to subsidize people that use our services but don't pay municipal taxes.

4. Would you be interested in considering the impact of house boats on Lake Temagami?

Water quality is a crucial issue for Temagami – without it – we don't have much! Anything that impacts our water quality should be considered. I know there are a lot of questions regarding houseboats – do they dump their grey water directly into the lake? Are their sewage tanks secured without leaking? How are the sewage tanks pumped out?

It's important to work with both the businesses that provide this service and private owners to make sure that all the questions are answered and we do our due diligence to secure our water quality for a very long time into the future.