

Meet the candidates

Voters in Deep River and Head, Clara, Maria will go to the polls October 24 to elect new council members for the next four years. The NRT will hold all-candidates meetings in both communities, Wednesday, October 12 at the Deep River Legion for candidates running for election in Deep River, and Thursday, October 13 at the township hall in Stonecliffe for Head, Clara, Maria. Both meetings will run 7-9 pm.

Ahead of the municipal elections, all candidates were also invited to submit a statement and photo for publication at no cost. Following are the statements received by our print deadline:

DEEP RIVER

GLENN DONCASTER - REEVE

It has been an honour to serve as the Reeve of Deep River for the past eight years. During this time, I have been able to increase Deep River's profile at the county and increase the county's profile at a national level.

In June of 2022, I was elected to the board of directors on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I would be pleased to continue this work.

In today's complex environment, communities need strong and forward-thinking leaders with a vision for a brighter future. As reeve and as a community advocate, local business owner of 25+ years, volunteer, father and grandfather, I have worked tirelessly to make Deep River a better place to live.

Having grown up here, it has been a great pleasure to grow my own family in this community – starting with three daughters (ages 37, 18 and 15) and now my grandsons (ages 7, 5 and 19 mths). I have also had the pleasure of serving the residents of Deep River as an elected representative for 21 years.

This breadth of experience equips me with the skills and knowledge required to be effective in the unique role of reeve. Most importantly, I know how to build meaningful relationships with public and private sector partners and work collaboratively to advance our community's interests.

I have steadfastly advocated on your behalf at county council meetings and at dozens of meetings



with Ministers, government representatives and the private sector, including CNL.

We've made so much progress - but there's still much work to be done. I am respectfully asking for your support on October 24. Let's continue the work we've started together.

CATHY RYAN - REEVE

My name is Cathy Ryan. I am running for the position of Reeve, representing the Deep River community at the local council table and the Renfrew County council.

I am a registered nurse and also a former police officer. As a nurse I worked in several areas, some of which are; Emergency, Correctional nursing, Clinical instructor with Algonquin College training new healthcare workers.

Most recently, I worked in a local long-term care home. I was also an 11-year member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, responding to "critical incidents" within the jails of Ontario.

As a police officer I worked in Metropolitan Toronto and two small departments, one of which was Deep River. I was an integral team member investigating "seniors" crimes and took many specialized courses; domestic violence, sexual assault (adults/children) and was a scenes of crime officer and a breathalyzer tech.

In both careers I demonstrated honesty and integrity and believe they are the cornerstones of community service.

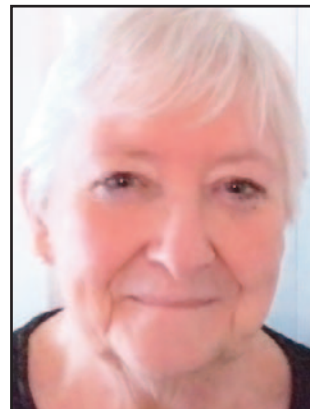
I was brought up in a military family, and together with my careers in both nursing and policing, I believe give me a unique perspective for the care of the elderly, and the state of our emergency services.

Further, I do have experience in a shortened term with Deep River town council several year ago. I sold my property in Deep River, moved from the area and could no longer be a member of council.

I am committed to:

- open and transparent governance
- listening to the concerns of constituents
- be a voice for the community at the county council
- bring your ideas to council for consideration and review.

I encourage everyone to come out and vote on October 24. This is the way your voices are heard.



LARRY DUMOULIN

- COUNCILLOR

I think we can all agree: two of the most important problems facing our beautiful town are infrastructure and budget.

Incumbents will tell you that they're making headway on these issues and to a limited degree that's true. Some roads are getting fixed, our water tower is getting a facelift – though none of that \$2.5M will fix the brown-water problem.

But council hasn't been getting to the roots of the challenge. Council hasn't received, and hasn't asked for, a regular monthly financial statement their entire term. Without that basic tool of oversight, how can council members themselves understand where the money's going?

Then there's the decade-long trend of starving our capital budget of sufficient annual funding. Twenty years ago, town budgets were allocating an annual average of \$700,000 to capital. In the past 12 years, including the last four, we've barely averaged \$200,000. This is reflected in our roads and in the water coming out of our taps.

We cannot continue to simply increase taxes to meet this challenge. The annual operating budget must be zero-based, and subject to public review and input.

I want to see a municipal cheque register that's available online. A budget that is circulated at least three weeks before it's discussed at council. An annual town hall meeting on the budget that anyone can attend and ask questions directly to council, and get answers, before a vote.

Safe roads and sidewalks, clear water, financial accountability. Let's get town hall back to basics.

WILL FITTON - COUNCILLOR

Hello friends and neighbours, As I seek to be re-elected to council for another term, I've been asked why.

My answer is simple, I'm running again as I promised I would, giving back to the community. The first term was a lot of work and education; I will continue to offer a balanced perspective, listening and weigh-



ing the options presented to council to make sound decisions.

There is no grand platform, I will not make promises I cannot keep. We need to continue move forward with common goals and get the job done, ensuring Deep River is a place we want to remain living, a place families want to come, and a place business wish to remain.

There is still a lot of work to do but only working together will we get it accomplished. We can thrive and grow while still maintaining our small-town feeling. I believe we can do this with fair, straightforward, simple common sense, maintaining fiscal responsibility and community needs balanced through our decisions.

I have been reminded what a unique great place Deep River is over the past year in ways I cannot express. As an optimist I want our town to have it all. As a realist I know it can only happen if we work together. With your help I can continue to be your voice on council for years to come.

Keep it simple, sensible.

I hope this helps you with your decision thank you. Good luck to all the candidates.

KATHY HUGHES - COUNCILLOR

I am proud of the progress made last term addressing challenges facing the town. Some of what was accomplished includes: advanced our asset management program which supports sound, timely decisions on managing our infrastructure and enables better fiscal planning; completed several reports that provided critical analyses and information on important long term issues (e.g. Financial Master Plan, water rate study); advanced major infrastructure work; and worked with the fire-fighters association to develop a composite, safe and cost-effective fire service.

Much of this work was the building blocks for what lies ahead. This is an exciting phase with planned initiatives including downtown revitalization, the development of a recreation plan to align programming with current interests and needs, and development opportunities.

There are also big challenges. We must continue using asset management data, sound analysis and long-term planning to fiscally manage our infrastructure work. A plan to build reserves is needed.



Managing development won't be easy. In the face of significant pressure from upper levels of government to build homes, we need to find the balance between meeting the demand for housing while maintaining town features important to the community. We need a housing plan that addresses our need for housing types and cost range, and a willingness to consider innovative options. Using secondary plans can help guide development priorities.

The opportunities ahead are exciting and the challenges significant. We need to continue to improve our communication and community engagement processes so that everyone will have an opportunity to provide input into building the town's future.

TERRY MYERS - COUNCILLOR

I have served on council for the past three terms. Thank you for that opportunity.

I am proud of the work that has been accomplished by those councils. We have tackled major issues around the town's police and fire departments, put money into improving our playgrounds, parks, and marina, invested in needed repairs and upgrades to the pool and arena, laid the groundwork for future growth and downtown redevelopment, and yes, there have been infrastructure projects aimed at fixing our roads, sidewalks and water and sewer lines.

But as we all know on that latter account, it has not been enough. My number one priority for the next term of council is simple. As our financial situation improves, and there is good reason to believe

it will, we need to make sure that our primary focus is to increase investment in basic infrastructure to the point where we are not just keeping pace with the passing years, but getting ahead of the curve.

As much as what we do, however, I believe it matters how we do our job on council. Every councillor is elected with two things, a voice and a vote, and I have always tried to use both to move issues forward in a positive and productive way, with due respect to my council colleagues, to our municipal staff, and to you, the public we serve.

Being elected to council is an honour and a privilege, one I have never taken lightly. On October 24, I humbly ask for your support once more.

TOM VAUGHAN - COUNCILLOR

As a newcomer to municipal politics, I would like to thank the NRT for the opportunity to introduce myself to the community. Originally from North Bay, my wife and I moved to the Ottawa Valley in early 2006 and we have lived in Deep River since 2007. With two daughters, 9 and 11, I can't imagine a better



place to raise a family! The pool, the parks, the sports, the programs and activities for everyone combined with a safe and caring community are second to none.

While I may be new to politics, my 17-year career in Information Technology at AECL and CNL has allowed me to develop the leadership and governance skills that I believe are integral to the role of a municipal councillor. I believe that trust is earned through open and honest dialog that is accompanied by action and accountability.

If elected to council this October, there are several key areas that I believe are going to be critical issues for Deep River over the next four years and will require a diligent and effective council to address.

I will continue to be an advocate for ensuring every resident has reliable and cost-effective access to the CRTC-defined minimum 50/10 Mbps Internet service. The future of our water and sewer services, growth in residential housing, equitable property taxes, and local business development are some of the topics I will be sharing my thoughts on through Facebook leading up to the election on October 24.

Thank you for your support and I would love to hear from residents on what issues matter to you. I can be reached through Facebook or tomwvaughan@hotmail.com.

HEAD, CLARA, MARIA

DEBBI GRILLS - MAYOR

In the last municipal election, I quoted from a report written by Wishart Law Group and Expertise for Municipalities. Throughout these last four years I have turned to that report many times for guidance. I remain committed to being part of an effective municipal government as described in that report, especially the following statements:

- Healthy, strong and vital communities work as a "team" toward a common vision for the future. Effective communities develop community plans and implementation strategies.

- In the open public forum, everyone is treated with respect and has an opportunity to express opinions without fear of being criticized or humiliated.



Meet the candidates

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- The public is seen as a valuable resource with a wide array of skills, experiences and opinions.
- The municipal government operates in an accountable and transparent manner. Members of council understand that they have a responsibility to act within their statutory role and make decisions that are in the best interest of the municipality, not for a single person or interest group.
- The community is successful and a desired place to live.

As mayor...

I will strive to continue conscientious leadership.

It is important for our council to be resourceful and find creative ways to maintain the debt free status we presently enjoy.

I believe that it is the responsibility of all council members to demonstrate leadership, thoughtful deliberation and reasonable solutions in matters before them.

I believe that respectful communication is essential for the success of our community.

If the last four years have taught me anything, it's the courage to keep on going, the flexibility to change and the optimism to believe in a better tomorrow.

CHRIS DOWSER - COUNCILLOR

I have served my nomination papers for re-election to council in the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria.

I believe my greatest accomplishment over the last four years is the revamping and upgrades to the three boat launches and parks we have in HCM. We have this beautiful river and now we have great access from one end of the municipality to the other. I will continue to advocate for further upgrades, such as more parking, washroom facilities, lights etc.

I have been instrumental in the replacement of our audio/visual system in our community centre.

There have also been improvements to the hall including touchless upgrades in the washrooms.

With matters of contention, I have advocated for more engagement with the community.

It's important to note that our taxes in HCM are the lowest in the county. There has not been a municipal tax increase since 2018. If re-elected I will continue to advocate for further reductions in our taxes.

This council has been very transparent, and I will press upon a new council to continue along this path.

We must keep in mind where we live and why people move here.



If re-elected, I will continue to maintain what is working and change what is not.

FRAN KELLY-CHAMBERLAIN - COUNCILLOR

My name is Fran Kelly-Chamberlain. I am running for a second term as councillor of Head, Clara and Maria townships.

I am a retired Registered Nurse from Sudbury with my last 15 years as the Clinical Leader of the Ambulatory Care Unit. I was also a past president of the Ontario Nurses Union – Sudbury Laurentian Hospital.

I fell in love with the Ottawa Valley when my husband, Neville Chamberlain (who grew up in Rolphton), introduced me to this "natural playground."

Presently, I am the council representative on the library board. Prior on being elected I was a volunteer member on that board since 2010.

I have strived to move forward with improvements to our community. We have finished some of our projects but Covid delayed a lot of the work.

The three boat launches of Head, Clara and Maria have all been improved on. The two parks – Old Mackey Park and Lacroix Park at Deux Rivieres - have also had improvements.

My goals for the next four years are:

(1) The completion of unfinished work such as the installation of the six streetlights at the corners of Highway 17 and our municipal roads for the safety of our residents at nighttime. This is the number one on my priority list since we started this a few years ago.

(2) Maintaining our low taxes.

(3) Listening to and understanding the issues of Head Clara and Maria's constituents and how I can support them.

KAREN LECLERC - COUNCILLOR

Hello. My name is Karen LeClerc. It is with great enthusiasm I am running for councillor in Head, Clara & Maria.

I was born in Deep River and have lived within a 20 km radius ever since. I have been on council before as councillor, deputy reeve and acting reeve for the town of Laurentian Hills. I lost the election for reeve to my good friend Jim Hickey, a very well respected man in our community.

I also served a public appointment by the Premier of Ontario as a director of the Algonquin Forestry Authority. I enjoyed this role very much. It was all about the sustainability of our forests. I resigned after 11 years and gained 100 years of knowledge.

I cannot promise to do "this" or "that"! All I can



promise is to listen to your concerns and do the best I can at council to resolve your problem.

As my father once told me, "If you are going to do a job, do the best you possibly can, and if not, don't do it at all!"

I promise to work diligently for you. I will always be honest, sometimes blunt, but to the point. I will never lie or give anyone concern for my actions.

I look forward to being you new councillor in Head, Clara & Maria.

RACHEL RICHER - COUNCILLOR

Voters of HC&M,

I am Rachel Richer, a new face in the area. I moved to Bissett Creek this summer. Leading up to now, I've been trying to live a happy life... but a few things were missing. I had been longing to move back "up north" – well that one got checked. I couldn't have asked for a better community to call my new home.

It's been too long since I've spent any time or energy on anything I am passionate about. But now that I've settled in, I can really start fulfilling my heart and soul. Working with and for my community is WHY I would be honoured to

be your councillor. To make things happen – whether it's to write policy that makes life easier or hold events that brings our community together.

Rules and procedures will change as time moves along – but some things that will stay consistent is my representation of being your voice, my integrity in doing my research, and the transparency to help everyone understand.

Bringing our community even closer together is important to me. If I can assist anyone, even one person to feel a little more connected to someone nearby, I would feel accomplished in my day's work.

If you see me as someone who you would be glad to be represented by, please vote on October 24.

ERNIE VILLENEUVE - COUNCILLOR

My name is Ernie Villeneuve Jr. and I have been a councillor in HCM for the past five years. I believe I provide a valuable service to the community by bringing fact based information to council and making decisions based on those facts that are in the interest of the entire community as opposed to select



interest groups, personal opinions, and naysayers. The silent majority cannot be ignored.

I have provided input to council that has resulted in savings of thousands of dollars annually.

Based on a review of the tax roll (available to any ratepayer) I became aware that the three private campgrounds (with a small exception for a commercial operation at one of the campgrounds) pay the same tax rate based on MPAC assessment (does not include trailers) that I do as a ratepayer. This means that whether they are empty or have a full house they still pay the same taxes.

These seasonal campers use our parks, waterways, boat launches, roads and trails and pay nothing for their upkeep. I believe these trailer sites (~190 sites) should pay an annual trailer licence fee similar to other trailer users in the municipality. These costs should not be a burden on the businesses as they could be passed on via rental fees.

I have the numbers and I would like to pursue this as well as other issues and continue to serve as a councillor responsible to the residents of HCM, with budget and municipal taxes of prime concern.

Thank you, Ernie.



SENIORS ACTIVE LIVING FAIR

Hello from the Seniors Friendship Club for Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

Our Active Living Fair, that took place on Thursday, September 29, was a huge success. The sky cleared and the people came. Food, provided by Bistro 86, was delicious and nutritious.

There were 28 Fair participants that took part in this event. These included everyone from Primeau Law to the School House Museum. Everyone was provided with a "goodie" bag full of brochures and gifts.

During the presentations we learned about Tai Chi, what services Cahoon's Pharmacy provides to the community, tax information for seniors, the importance of fitness as we age, the role of the County of Renfrew Paramedics, and where to travel now that the world is open to us once again.

The fashion show was very entertaining. Models showed off their bargain wares that they purchased at the Whistle Stop. Everyone looked mighty fine.

Your feedback regarding to the fair is important to us. This is how the various ministries know who we are and where their funding is going.

We appreciate all those who completed the surveys before they left. The winners of the door prize (for completing the survey) are Diane Hetu and Ruth Harrison. They win a \$25 gift certificate to a local business of their choice.

**Seniors
Friendship
Club**



For a full list of fair participants, please check out our website.

COFFEE, TEA & CONVERSATION

We will be gathering for coffee and tea once again on Thursdays in the program room at the Deep River Library at 10 am. See you Thursday, October 6. Everyone is welcome to attend and to meet other seniors from the community.

WOOSY WEDNESDAY WALKS

We had a wonderful fall day for our Woosy Wednesday Walk on September 28. Tom Holden guided us and talked about some of the flora and fauna along the way to Miami Beach.

Each Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 pm we put on our walking shoes or hiking boots and head out for some fresh air on one of the many trails we have in the area. The location and distance are emailed to members a few days before our walk.

Contact Ann Serdula at annserdula97@vianet.ca to let us know if you plan to attend. The weather can be fickle so please check your email before leaving the house in case we need to postpone because of inclement weather.

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Thank You!

The Seniors Friendship Club would like to congratulate the two winners of the \$25 gift certificates from the SFC Seniors Active Living Fair last Thursday!

A sincere Thank You to everyone who volunteered and who attended our fair and to all of the following businesses/groups/ministries and people who made this fair possible:

MPP John Yakabuski Representative
- Laura Lapinskie
Head, Clara and Maria Mayor Grills
Laurentian Hills Deputy Mayor Giardini
Deep River Mayor D'Eon
North Renfrew Times
MyFM Radio
Bayshore Home Care Solutions
Brian Kendrick Travel Only
Cahoon's Pharmacy
Carefor Health and Community Services
Chalk River Lions Club
County of Renfrew Paramedic Services
Deep River and Area Food Bank
Deep River and District Community Foundation
Deep River and District Hospital, Hospital Foundation and Hospital Auxilliary
Deep River Lawn Bowling Club
Deep River Legion
Deep River Public Library
Laurentian Hills Library

Deep River Recreation Department
Deep River Tai Chi Club
Deep Tech
Dementia Society
Digital Copy Xpress
Heritage Hearing Care
Julie's Community Foot Care Lifeline
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
Ministry of Finance
North Renfrew Family Services
Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO)
Primeau Law
School House Museum
Whistle Stop Fashion Show Coordinators and Models
Toby and Bella's Pet Supply & Pet Treat Bakery
P&G Enterprises
rEco Refillery
Forest Cove Farm & Country Market
OPG
James J. Hickey Realty
Jennifer Layman/Health Matters

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

GET THOSE PUPPIES CHECKED!

— BOOK YOUR MAMMOGRAM TODAY —



The Deep River and District Hospital is a local site for the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). Why choose OBSP?

- Reminder letter sent from OBSP for future appointments
- Report mailed directly to you and your family physician
- Best practice for breast screening
- OBSP provides large database for breast care research
- No physician referral required

Breast screening is an important part of maintaining your overall health and well-being, as regular mammograms lower the risk of dying from breast cancer in women ages 50 to 74.

**Deep River
and District**



Women over 50: Call 613-732-1463 and request your appointment locally in Deep River. No physician referral required!

NRT to host all-candidate meetings Wednesday, Thursday

The first of two all-candidates meetings ahead of this year's municipal elections will be held tonight Wednesday, October 12 at the Deep River Legion for candidates running for election to Deep River council.

Tomorrow night, Thursday, October 13, the North Renfrew Times will host a second meeting at the township hall in Stonecliffe for candidates running in the townships of Head, Clara & Maria.

Both meetings will run from 7-9 pm. Candidates will have an opportunity to make an opening statement, and Doug Tennant will act as moderator for voters to ask questions.

Barring any technical difficulties, both meetings will also be available by livestream on the NRT Facebook page.

To view the meetings, go to www.facebook.com/NorthRenfrewTimes.

In Deep River, a total of eight candidates will be on the municipal ballot.

In the race for five seats as councillors, four incumbents – Will Fitton, Christina Giardini, Terry Myers and Kathy Hughes – will be joined on the ballot by newcomer Tom Vaughan and by Larry Dumoulin, who previously ran for mayor in 2018.

Meanwhile, two candidates will face off for the position of reeve - incumbent Glenn Doncaster and challenger Cathy Ryan, a former Deep River Police officer.

Mayor Sue D'Eon has been returned to office for another term by acclamation.

In Head, Clara, Maria, there will be a choice for both mayor and council as former mayor Bob Reid filed his

nomination to run against incumbent Debbi Grills, who defeated Reid in 2018.

Six candidates will challenge for the four positions as councillor – incumbents Ernie Villeneuve, Chris Dowser and Fran Kelly-Chamberlain will be running against newcomer Rachel Richer, former mayor and councillor Jim Gibson, and Karen LeClerc, who is new to Head, Clara, Maria council but previously served in the former townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay.

Municipal election day is October 24.

There will be no election this year in Laurentian Hills as all five members have been acclaimed.

Deputy Mayor Anne Giardini will become the town's new mayor, while Councillors Brenda Blimkie, Bruce Boucher and John Hoyle will all return for another term.

New to council will be Ward 2 Councillor Gary McAnulty.

The new term of council begins November 15.

Please call for appointment
613-735-1717



2019 Volkswagen Jetta Comfortline
\$24,994 or \$94/wk 6.99% for 84 months
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2021 Audi Q3 Technik AWD



2017 Chevrolet Sonic LT Turbo



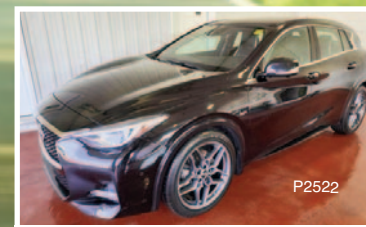
**2019 Infiniti QX50
Essential AWD**



2015 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4x4



2018 Toyota Yaris LE



2018 Infiniti QX30 Sport

COB: \$10,000 for 60 months at 5.99% is \$1580 or \$49.54 wkl

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County home sales remain below average

The number of homes sold through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system of the Renfrew County Real Estate Board totalled 120 units in September 2022. This was down sharply by 38.8% from September 2021.

Home sales were 25.6% below the five-year average and 18.4% below the 10-year average for the month of September.

On a year-to-date basis, home sales totalled 1,400 units over the first nine months of the year. This was a substantial decrease of 26.4% from the same period in 2021.

The average price of homes sold in September 2022 was \$421,122, a small gain of 2.5% from September 2021.

The more comprehensive year-to-date average price was \$470,823, increasing by 18.2% from the first nine months of 2021.

Active residential listings numbered 387 units on the market at the end of September, a substantial increase of 66.1% from the end of September 2021, but 22.9% below the five-year average and 52.8% below the 10-year average for the month of September.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Ahead of the municipal elections, the North Renfrew Times invited all candidates to submit a statement and photo for publication at no cost. Most were published in last week's issue. Two additional candidates are featured this week.

MUNICIPAL all candidates meetings

sponsored by
North Renfrew Times

DEEP RIVER

7 - 9pm, Wed, Oct 12

Deep River Legion,
50 McElligott Dr

HEAD, CLARA, MARIA

7 - 9pm, Thurs, Oct 13

Stonecliffe Township Hall

Written
questions
are welcome.

Livestream at www.facebook.com/NorthRenfrewTimes

CHRISTINA GIARDINI - DR COUNCILLOR

Late in 1985, my parents moved to Deep River and planted our roots. I was raised here in Deep River as well as in Laurentian Hills, going to both St. Mary's and Mackenzie and chose to move back to raise my own family.

I love the diversity of our town and have always considered myself to be a voice for all of our residents. Children's programming, inclusivity and taking care of our seniors are important issues that I am passionate about.

My interest in our community spans across all ages as they include my eight-year-old daughter and a 91-year-old grandmother. Attracting new residents and businesses is crucial to our economy and reliable, fast internet service is a top priority.

My job as a Deep River councillor is to make sure we are addressing the current and future needs of our community.

People move here for our recreation programs, job opportunities, arts, schools and so much more. But in the background, we need to have dependable infrastructure: roads & grounds, water & sewer, asset care, and so much more.

For all this to come together, a good solid budget is mandatory - for now and for our future.

We have many things to be proud of in this beautiful town and I will continue to be a voice of reason around the council table. I will work hard to ensure that we are fiscally responsible and responding to the interests of our communities. I look forward to another four years.



JIM GIBSON - HCM COUNCILLOR

Hello readers,

My name is Jim Gibson and I am running for election to the position of councillor.

I have 17 years of experience as a councillor and mayor on the council of the United Townships of Head Clara and Maria. I have served as a county councillor and as a member of the Rural Mayor's Forum of Eastern Ontario.

I am attempting to re-enter politics so I can be a more effective voice in the protection of our private property rights which are being continuously eroded at the municipal, county, and provincial levels.

I love this community. I live here by choice and have worked for thousands of hours in both paid and volunteer positions helping make our community a very desirable place to live. I won't list my many achievements here because they mean nothing going forward.

I do, however, have to mention one accomplishment that affects every resident in Head, Clara, and Maria and in the province using a septic system.

During my term as mayor, the building code development branch attempted to require every septic system owner to have their tanks pumped out every five years and keep proof of that pump out for inspection by municipal officials. I spent over 300 hours over three months fighting this code change until it was finally withdrawn.

I believe that I have demonstrated the ability to be a valued member of council and look forward to doing that again over the next four years.



THE NORTH RENFREW TIMES

DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

\$2.00 (HST INCL.)



Zowen Alley got some assistance from firefighter Alex Bailey Saturday morning in the proper way to use a fire extinguisher, as the Deep River fire department held an open house as part of Fire Prevention Week.

Photo: Vance Gutzman

Candidates face off at meeting

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

Voters in Deep River's upcoming municipal election had a chance last week to hear from and ask questions of the eight candidates vying for six seats on council.

About 60 people were in attendance at the Deep River Legion for an all-candi-

dates meeting hosted by the North Renfrew Times.

With incumbent Mayor Sue D'Eon having been acclaimed to a second term in office, the candidates at the meeting included incumbent Reeve Glenn Doncaster, who represent the town at the county level, and Cathy Ryan, who is

challenging him for that position.

The six candidates running for the five positions of councillor included incumbents Christina Giardini, Terry Myers, Will Fitton and Kathy Hughes, all of whom are seeking re-election.

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DAYCARE RAISES TERRY FOX FUNDS



P.22

MCS GIRLS WIN XC CROWN

QUOTEWORTHY:

"Am I shocked? Not even in the least."

- Letter, page 8

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NORTH RENFREW TIMES

VOL. 69, No. 42

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Moderator Doug Tennant (far right) introduces the candidates for Deep River council at an all-candidates meeting last Wednesday night at the Deep River Legion.

Photo: Vance Gutzman

Deep River candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They were joined by Tom Vaughan and Larry Dumoulin, who are both seeking a first term in office, though Dumoulin does have some experience in that regard, having run unsuccessfully for mayor the last time voters went to the polls in 2018.

The meeting was moderated by long-time community volunteer and NRT editorial board member Doug Tennant, who started things off by allowing the candidates to introduce themselves to the voters in attendance, followed by questions to the candidates in both written and verbal form.

The first question was written and read aloud by Tennant, and it concerned how the candidates would address the town's Deep River's aging infrastructure.

Doncaster spoke first to the question and noted the town is in the process of completing its asset management plan to help address the situation.

He also said the town can't fund all its necessary infrastructure upgrades without the aid of upper-tier levels of government.

"We can't do this alone," Doncaster said.

"We need the provincial and federal governments to step up and help us."

Ryan, speaking to the infrastructure question, stressed the need for the town to address the issues many people are having with brown drinking water.

"There's quite a few people who complain about the brown water they have," Ryan said, adding the town needs to redo its aging pipes in the ground on an ongoing basis.

Like Doncaster, Myers also reference the work being done to complete the town's asset management plan.

"We have a really good handle on a great chunk of our infrastructure, but not all of it," Myers said.

The plan projects the town will need to spend an average of \$4.8 million over the next 20 years to maintain the levels of service for all its capital assets, including fleet and facilities.

"We're making some progress on that," Myers went on to say, noting the town has put more than \$800,000 into capital this year. "But more needs to be done."

Fitton agreed the town's infrastructure is starting to show its age.

"We all know things are getting old and falling apart," Fitton said, adding the town needs to target its specific infrastructure needs.

"You can't just throw a dart at the wall," he said.

FUNDING

Vaughan was also on board with the importance of the town's asset management plan to address infrastructure needs, while pointing out that property taxes alone won't clear up the town's infrastructure deficit.

Pretty well all the candidates were amenable to the importance of the asset management plan.

"It gives you evidence-based decisions of what you need to fix," Hughes said.

Dumoulin cautioned the town shouldn't place too much reliance on the federal and provincial governments stepping up to the plate to help Deep River address its aging infrastructure needs, saying those level of government have already spent considerable monies addressing the pandemic.

"They're going to be looking to cut back now," Dumoulin said, while adding the town has been underfunding its capital assets for the last 12 years.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Town says new fire model will mean longer but better response

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

Deep River's new fire service model may result in slightly longer response times, but the turnout of firefighters for those responses will be much larger than in the past.

That was the message coming out of a pair of information sessions the town held on Saturday as it unrolls the new fire service model, which came into effect Monday.

The new model sees fire services now being delivered through a new standalone, composite model, with a full-time fire chief, two full-time captains, two full-time firefighters and 24 fully trained volunteer firefighters, divided up into four platoons.

Each platoon will consist of either a full-time captain or firefighter, along with a volunteer lieutenant and five volunteer firefighters.

The town's chief administrative officer, Sean Patterson, in presenting information on the new fire model to the one member of the public who attended the

morning session, explained that, while the fire hall will only be staffed from 7 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday, there will be a "robust on-call system" in place during the times it's not staffed.

Patterson's presentation went on to note that, under the town's existing model, response times have averaged just under five minutes over the past four years, but initial responses were made by two fire staff, with a limited number of staff available for secondary response if necessary.

Under the new model, Patterson said, initial response times are expected to increase by five to 10 minutes, but there will be a minimum of six to seven fire staff for those responses, with a substantial increase to the number of firefighters attending any secondary response, owing to the 24 volunteer firefighters.

An on-call system, meanwhile, will also be in place during the hours the fire hall is not staffed, when emergency response calls will be covered with up to four full-time captains and firefighters, and one of the four platoons.

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All-candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Giardini, on the other hand, said grants from other levels of government are important to remedying the town's infrastructure, and stressed the importance of the asset management plan in that regard.

The next question, again written and read aloud by Tennant, asked the candidates if they would support an inquiry into the town's recent boil water advisory, independent of the company contracted to operate the town's water system.

Ryan said she would support such an inquiry, adding suggestions for how the boil water advisory was handled and notifications were made to the public.

In that regard, she suggested the town may want to consider stockpiling bottled water for residents should a boil water advisory be issued again in the future, and suggested the police and fire departments could have been utilized to spread the message of the boil water advisory.

"They could go out and warn people," Ryan said.

"I'd be a little more proactive."

Her opponent for reeve said he would not support an inquiry into the boil water advisory, noting the advisory itself stemmed from a hydro brownout, and regular testing of the water showed it was safe to drink.

"It was just an advisory," Doncaster said.

"Throughout the water advisory we never had a single contamination level come back. The water was absolutely safe."

Fitton also didn't feel there was a need for an inquiry,

noting it wouldn't be "fiscally prudent," while adding he too would like to see improvements in the way the town communicates such information to its residents.

The need for improved communication was stressed by other candidates, including Giardini.

"There were some gaps that need to be addressed," she said.

Myers said he would not support an inquiry into the boil water advisory, especially if it's going to be "at considerable cost."

"It was a hydro issue, not an operator issue," he said.

INQUIRY

The written question, it turned out, was posed by Bill Turner, a resident of town who regularly attends Deep River council meetings, and he strode to the microphone and asked the question again to the candidates if they would support an inquiry into the boil water advisory. Only Ryan and Dumoulin answered in the affirmative.

Other questions posed to the candidates at the meeting included whether there should be more public participation at council meetings themselves, and whether they would support the town actively promoting inclusivity for the LGBTQ community through things like the painting of crosswalks, and the merits of the town's proposed new fire service model.

Next Monday, October 24 is municipal election day. In Deep River, voters can cast their ballot online or by phone any time until Monday at 8 pm.

If you have not received your voter information and personal identification number, call the town office at 613-584-2000.

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Township candidates address local issues

BY TERRY MYERS

With a name like that, what better fit could there be for a new business than a weed store?

"I always thought it would be quite appropriate when you live in a place called 'Stonecliffe' to have a cannabis shop," Head, Clara, Maria Mayor Debbie Grills joked last week.

That was one of the light moments last Thursday night as those running for election in the townships met at an all-candidates meeting in the township hall.

The meeting was hosted by the North Renfrew Times and featured seven of the eight people seeking office in municipal elections next Monday, October 24.

Grills is running for re-election as mayor after her first four-year term. She faces challenger Bob Reid, who was mayor prior to 2018.

Meanwhile, six people are running for four seats as councillor.

Incumbents Ernie Villeneuve, Chris Dowser and Fran Kelly-Chamberlain will face off against newcomer Rachel Richer, former mayor and councillor Jim Gibson, and Karen LeClerc, who is new to the townships but previously served as deputy reeve in the former townships of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay.

Gibson was unable to attend last week's all-candidates meeting after undergoing a medical procedure, but all seven remaining candidates were able to take



part, with about 30 members of the public in attendance.

Humour aside, Grills said better Internet service would be the key to attracting new residents and business to the townships.

"That's where we have to go first, better Internet that's affordable for everybody," she said.

Reid said the townships should focus on their motto as a "natural playground."

"We're called the playground, so we're going to have to look at businesses toward the playground. Can we get someone to come in and open a boating spot?" he said.

Ultimately, however, "this is up to the public, not up to council," he said.

"It's something that has to be discussed and everyone make that decision."

Kelly-Chamberlain noted that "when COVID was happening, there were a lot of people who were buying up homes and property here, and they were doing a lot of their business from home, online."

"But as Mayor Grills has said, we really need to up our Internet for it to happen that way."

She suggested other types of business that might be attracted to the townships would include Airbnb rentals, a spa or retreat.

Dowser said that while Head, Clara, Maria may be "toy heaven," better Internet is the first step.

"Until we see 5G on all these hydro poles going up the highway, there's not going to be a lot of business that comes into this commu-

nity, because the internet isn't stable," he said.

"Home based businesses are great and we'd love a lot more, but with the unstable Internet it's very difficult."

Richer said it starts with "all of us."

"As was pointed out, we're definitely in this playground. It's really what the people want though," she said.

While the "infrastructure definitely has to be improved," Richer said township staff could also help by directing people hoping to start a business to grants and other resources.

"Perhaps someone here wants to start their own business but doesn't know how."

LeClerc said the question of new business is "barking up the wrong tree."

"It's hard to get people (to start a business). How many businesses do each of us know that failed in the last little while?"

LeClerc said that "maybe with COVID over" and if the townships can improve their Internet service, it would be possible to attract businesses related to the "natural playground."

"We have the beautiful river there, we have ATV trails, snowmobile trails, those are the things that bring people here," she said.

Villeneuve said the townships "already have a major attraction in that we have the lowest taxes within the county."

He said there will be "lots of opportunity" when the former CP rail bed becomes "fully operational" as the Algonquin Trail.

But otherwise, "I don't see much more coming here other than" the proposed Bissett Creek graphite mine.

AUTO EXTRICATION

There was no joking around when it came to the topic of auto extrication.

The townships have been without auto ex services on Highway 17 since a three-way agreement between

An advertisement for Jan's valu-mart. On the left, there is a circular inset showing a close-up of several golden-brown scones. To the right of the scones, the text reads "Freshly Baked goods!" in a large, stylized font. Below this, it says "FROM Sweetened by Shelley". Further down, in orange text, it says "Fall Treats delivered to the store every Tuesday and Friday!". Below that, in a white box with an orange border, it says "Find your favourite flavours of scones, squares, lemon tarts, buttermarts". At the bottom, the "Jan's valu-mart" logo is displayed in red and white.

HCM, Laurentian Hills and Deep River was cancelled about seven years ago.

Grills said it's a topic that has "kept me awake at night."

She said the current council has held meetings to try to find support but with no results so far.

"I don't like to think it's a failure. People have listened, but I can't get anybody to help," she said.

Grills said the county's paramedic service is well aware of the situation and does carry a limited amount of extrication equipment.

Mattawa's fire department is also still willing to attend accidents as far down as about Bissett Creek.

"So it's not all bad news. It's definitely not good news, but it's not bad news completely," she said.

Reid said he was on the joint auto extrication committee for many years and "it came down to the simple question of money."

"Laurentian Hills didn't want to come here unless we paid the full bill, Mattawa wouldn't come here unless we paid the full bill," he said.

"It's a problem that's got to be solved, and it's going to be a problem for the next 20 years until the government makes it mandatory."

Richer said the issue was something she was "still learning about."

"Is it a matter of money, maybe. Is it a matter of us not being loud enough about it, maybe," she said.

"It's something I'm still actively learning about and hope to have a solution."

LeClerc said the issue comes down to "money - that's the only way we're going to solve it."

"But do you want to pay it in taxes?"

She suggested the only other solution was for the townships to have "our own fire department, but that's impossible."

Villeneuve agreed.

"It's unfortunate but it is about money," he said.

"God help us there is a serious accident and auto extrication is not available and it becomes headline news. That would possibly be the fastest way to get that service here," he added.

"At the same time, no one wants to double their tax bill to pay for auto extrication services."

Kelly-Chamberlain said auto extrication is an issue that's "really been a thorn in my side for several years."

She said she doesn't think it's all about money and still wants to "fight for this."

"I've seen accidents where girls were upside down in their car and Mattawa came for rescue," she said.

"This is Highway 17, it's not a municipal road, and it should be back to (the province) to take care of this and help us out, and that's what I want to push for, again."

Dowser agreed that it was an issue of more than money, noting that one of the reasons Laurentian Hills won't attend accidents in the townships is that they would not be able to cover their own municipality in the event of an incident there at the same time.

"We could have our own auto extrication equipment but the training involved to use it, from the municipality and liability issues" is too much to handle, he added.

"The only way I can think (the issue might be solved) is, Deep River has a new fire model and maybe we can work with Deep River and get something from there."

BEST CANDIDATE?

As far as why they would make the best candidate for council, Reid said he's straightforward.

"If I say I'm going to do something, it gets done," he said.

"I always speak fairly bluntly on what I believe."

Reid said he hopes to serve as a "council person."

"Mayor is a title. It takes the whole group as council to get anywhere," he said.

"They need a leader. I hope to be that leader.

"You guys know who I am. Whether you agree with

me or not, this is me."

Grills said she's got "a pretty good sense of humour, and sometimes being mayor reminds me of my 35 years of teaching and time on the playground doing playground duty."

"That is the motto of the townships, right," said moderator Doug Tennant.

LeClerc said her past experience in Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay and on the board of the Algonquin Forestry Authority would stand her in good stead.

> CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Compensation for this position will be in accordance with the CUPE 740 Collective agreement with the potential for comprehensive benefits in accordance with the Collective Agreement. This is a union position represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 740.

Please submit a complete resume of qualifications and experience marked "Private and Confidential - Labourer/Truck Driver" by 2:00 PM Thursday October 20, 2022 to:

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Thank you for your interest. Accessibility accommodations are available for all parts of the selection process. Applicants must make their needs known in advance. Information collected will be managed in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Deep River Public Library

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Children's Programs:

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 - o Lego Club (1st & 3rd Saturdays)
 - o Steam Club (2nd & 4th Saturdays)
 - o Bilingual Board Games with a Hallowe'en theme! October 29th.
- Costume exchange. Take a costume, leave a costume this month!

Adult Programs:

- Arts Open Mic Night. Thursday, October 20th at 6:30pm. Come out to perform your art and explore the art of those in our community! 'Tis the season for spooky stories. Bring yours!
- The Joys of Watercolour Painting workshop with Elaine Bisson. Tuesday, October 25th from 10am-12pm. In this introductory workshop, Elaine will familiarize you with materials, techniques, and technology for transfer. All welcome! Registration required. Suggested donation of \$20 welcome to help cover costs of supplies.
- Authors in Deep with Robert Bockstael. Friday, October 28th at 6:30pm. Join us to hear from actor (Cpl Brian Fletcher on North of 60!), writer, playwright, and director, discuss the transition from actor-to-novelist and read from his new novel, Willow's Run. Free!
- Authors in Deep: Writers' Workshop with Robert Bockstael. Saturday, October 29th from 2:00-4:00pm. Robert will be focusing on the writing process and self-publishing. All interests/experiences welcome! Registration required.

Exhibits on Display: Stop by to check out ...

- Nuclear Science Week display by CNL!
- Finding Their Voices: River of Time. Steffanie Adams' (Faculty of George Brown College's School of Architectural Studies) important research on the Algonquin Families living by the Ottawa River prior to 1944. Add your memories to the record!

Township candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"I enjoy meeting people, I like hearing both sides of the story, and I always feel like I can listen. Even when it seems hard to listen to people, I will listen and weigh their concerns," she said.

"Once I put my foot forward, I'm like a dog with a bone. I'll keep trying."

Villeneuve's response was brief and to the point.

"I'm honest, I do my homework, I'm thorough, always give 100 per cent effort, and I'm able to see both sides of an issue," Villeneuve said.

COMMON SENSE

Dowser was likewise brief. "Common sense and fiscal responsibility are my best qualities," he said.

"And why I'm the best candidate for the job is, I will bring your agenda to the council table, not my own."

Kelly-Chamberlain said she's a "people person, that's why I went into (her career in) nursing."

"I've always been around people for 35 years and gained a lot of experience in that."

Kelly-Chamberlain said she also likes being involved, like when she joined the library board after moving to the townships.

"All my friends down here said, Fran, you've got to be running for council. So I hope I've pleased them and hopefully I've helped our community move forward that way."

Richer said she is not comfortable talking about herself, but that she is "down to earth and an open book."

"All my adult years, I've been working for corporations, not people. So it's time I started working for people."

Richer said she is "really passionate about where my heart is."

"Moving up here was something I needed to do for myself, and now working for people and for the betterment of my community is something" that is important to her.

As far as being the "best person" for the job, "I'm just letting you know I hope to be one of the four best that will get your support," she said.

Other questions raised at the meeting touched on candidates' priorities for the coming term, better policing and control over snowmobiling, public engagement, and the library.

The full meeting is available to view online at www.facebook.com/NorthRenfrewTimes.

Fire model

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The net financial savings to the town, Patterson noted in his presentation will be an estimated \$700,000 a year over the first 10 years of the new fire model.

After that, once the transition costs will have been paid out, the town should see annual operation savings going forward of \$880,000.

"These are not unrealistic targets," Patterson said, adding development of the new fire model involved a lot of effort by a lot of people, including town residents.

"The community had to be incredibly patient," Patterson said.

Patterson also heaped praise on the Deep River Professional Fire Fighters Association for their efforts in aiding with the transition to the new model.

"They put hundreds of hours into this," he said. "They worked really closely with us."

Watch for full coverage of this year's local elections at northrenfrewtimes.ca and in next week's issue

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