

2018 Municipal Election Questions for Candidates

Prepared by the Kennebec Lake Association on behalf of its Members

The 2018 Municipal Election in Central Frontenac is occurring on October 22, 2018. Canadian property owners who have a cottage or secondary residence in Central Frontenac are eligible to vote for candidates in Central Frontenac in addition to their permanent residence. Voters can vote online or by telephone. Important information on how to vote can be found at : centralfrontenac.com.

The Kennebec Lake Association asked for and received feedback from members on what questions they would like see posed to the three candidates running for two Councillor positions in our ward (Ward 1-Kennebec). The Mayor's position has been acclaimed.

The candidates that are running in our Ward are (in alphabetical order): Tom Dewey (incumbent), Isaac Hale, and Cindy Kelsey (incumbent).

The following is the request and questions sent to each of the candidates, and their responses.

Dear Candidates,

My Name is Dominic Maiorino and I am a property owner and Vice Chair of the Kennebec Lake Association. During our recent meetings and discussions with our lake stake holders we have been working to encourage greater participation on local issues and concerns that effect our community.

We have put together a few questions that we would appreciate having a response from you that can be disseminated to our property owners prior to the Sept. 24th Candidate meeting in Arden.

We would also like to ask that you provide us with a short one paragraph introduction to help our folks get to know you, since as you know many are seasonal residents and not familiar with who you are.

The following questions have been put together from a number of submissions and capture the essence of what our owners concerns are.

I thank you for your attention to these questions and look forward to your responses and our ability to share same with our members. We are encouraging all our members to become informed and to take advantage of their right to vote in the upcoming election.

The following are the responses from each of the candidates:

Introductions:

Tom Dewey- I grew up on a farm one mile west of Croydon, graduated from Napanee High School and started to work at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kingston. Later moved over to Trans Canada Credit and was transferred to Toronto where I spent the next 46 years in the business community. I retired in 2005 after 35 years as Manager, Corporate Credit for Emerson Electric Canada Ltd. I have been married to Shirley for the past 57 years and we have two daughters. After retiring in 2005 Shirley and I decided to make Arden our permanent home, having enjoyed the area since 1981 as cottagers.

Isaac Hale- Hello all, my name is Isaac Hale and I am a candidate in the next municipal election in your ward. I grew up in Arden and left shortly after high school to pursue opportunities to work in the outdoors and in particular with youth at risk. After having spent time in many US states my wife Susan and I were asked to return to Canada and help start the wilderness division of the Pine River Institute.

With Pine River up and running we both decided that having more control over the food we were eating was our primary interest and so back to Arden we came. Together we started Learning Curve Gardens and now sell vegetables both in Arden and at the Sharbot Lake Farmers Market. In addition to the Gardens I am an active member of the Fire Department and consider my commitment to Emergency Services to one of my best choices. In addition to being a part of a team and continuing to expand my base of experience it has opened me up to the needs of our community as a whole.

That leads me to my council bid. I feel that I bring a diverse experience, deep commitment to all members of our community and most importantly a long history of consensus based leadership. Please give me due consideration in the upcoming election and make sure you vote. Regards
Isaac Hale

Cindy Kelsey- I have been the local Post Master for over fifteen years now and employed by Canada Post for the past twenty. I have been able to call Central Frontenac my home for over 50 years and I'm the fourth generation of my family in the area. My Husband and I have had the pleasure of raising our family here and have owned or home and operate our small business for over 25 Years. I have experience in managing staff and all other aspects of daily business. I'm passionate about our area and want to keep Central Frontenac one of the best places to live and raise our family's.

Question 1

Many Municipalities have Environmental Advisory Committees to provide advice on environmental aspects of issues before council. Would you support the review and possible establishment of such a group for Central Frontenac?

For reference EACs are in place in the city of Guelph, Leeds and Thousand Islands and several others.

Tom Dewey: I would not support the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Committee as we already have three Conservation Authority's in our area with members of Council on each. I see this as a duplication of work that is already being done by the three very dedicated organizations with qualified staff.

Isaac Hale: Yes I would support an EAC. A great amount of the food eaten by my family comes from the fields and forests of Central Frontenac. I have a deep and personal interest in the health of our environment and would welcome any efforts to safeguard our land and water.

Cindy Kelsey: I would support the review and possibility of the establishment of an environmental committee. I believe it is important to be proactive when it comes to matters regarding the environment.

Question 2

With water front property owners representing upwards of 90% of the tax base in Central Frontenac. What assurances can you pass on to our members that issues and services that are important to us are being given the priority they deserve by you and by Council.

Tom Dewey: Central Frontenac strives to offer the highest level of service to all our citizens based on the tax dollars that we have to work with.

Isaac Hale: It is important to me that all members of our community have representation at council. In terms of the services that are of primary interest to our lake communities and seasonal residents I can say that my commitment to our environment and the responsible use of taxpayer money are foremost in my mind.

Cindy Kelsey: I am always willing to listen and assist in matters of issue to the Lake Associations. I will work hard to help make sure that our community has its needs met and its issues resolved.

Question 3

We have seen some dramatic increases in water front property owners tax assessments in Central Frontenac over the last few years. We understand some of the issues faced by the municipality around Police costs and upgrading our Fire service. What steps are you prepared to take to ensure that future increases will be held to at or below the rate of inflation.

Tom Dewey: The municipality has no control over assessed values of properties. This is done by MPAC who revalue all properties in Ontario every four years. With more and more people turning vacation properties into permanent residences and new builds being of a more luxurious and larger structure, property values are definitely going to rise. Based on the new property values, taxes of course are going to go up on all adjacent properties as well due to the overall increase in the area. Property owners who feel that their property is being unfairly assessed have a remedy available to them by appealing the assessed value to MPAC. It is our objective during budget time to try and maintain any tax increases to the rate of inflation.

Isaac Hale: If elected I will do my absolute best to insure that your tax dollars are wisely spent. However in looking forward to the challenges facing our community in the next term and the political climate in our provincial legislature I think it would be imprudent for me to say that our taxes will not increase. I believe that there are areas in which we can save money, one being increased staff retention. Our admin has seen dramatic turnover in the last few years in some key positions. I would like to see us focussing on grooming local talent to fill openings. Folks with family and land connections within CF are more likely to stay and be committed to the strength of our township.

Cindy Kelsey: The Township of Central Frontenac has no control over the IMPAC assessments which have been responsible for substantial increases in taxes. To help keep the taxes at a reasonable rate within the township I would like to take a more rigorous look at the budget and make cuts where we can. I have participated in asset management training I feel that with the information I learned from that course it could be a benefit to keeping taxes at a reasonable rate.

Question 4

With virtually no industrial base and a limited commercial base Central Frontenac certainly has its challenges. What do you feel should be done to improve this situation and help to reduce the tax burden on the residential tax base.

Tom Dewey: We realize that no 'big box' stores are opening anytime soon in our area. However, we feel that by improving our cell and internet coverage here in Central Frontenac that we will be a destination of choice for anyone wishing to open a 'home based' business. Our Mayor sits on the board of EORN, and is lobbying very hard with other member municipalities to increase up load and down load speeds throughout Central Frontenac. Once that EORN has completed a 'Gap Analysis' for Eastern Ontario, stakeholders along with the Province have committed to injecting \$278 million into infrastructure improvements. This in turn will attract more businesses to our area which in turn will increase our tax base.

Isaac Hale: I would like to see more done to encourage small business in our community. Artisanal food/beverage business is thriving in our area and we can do more to insure that these have the production base needed to expand. Artists and Musicians are increasingly interested in the clean air and affordable property available in our region and that is another area of potential growth.

Cindy Kelsey: This is an issue with all rural municipalities. I would like to see more training provided to staff to help them gain knowledge in advertising the area to commercial businesses. I have participated in the ROMA conference which deals with this issue and felt it was a beneficial experience. I feel that if more training was taken by other members of council and township staff it could be a great start to helping achieve more businesses in the area.

Question 5

Mandatory Septic system re-inspection is moving forward and is encouraging. We continue to be concerned with current timelines for completion and priorities re Lakes not designated for re-inspection within the timeline. What do you believe should be done to expedite the process in order to expand to other lakes and properties and how can the 15 year time frame proposed for overall cycle be shorted?

Tom Dewey: As I mentioned at the All Candidates meeting last night we hope to have the By-Law passed before the end of this Council's term of office and be able to hit the ground running in 2019. Our plan is to use a County software program to upload all roll numbers and only use Mississippi Rideau Conservation Authority as our inspection agency in the beginning. With over 4150 properties in Central Frontenac and a beginning conservative estimate of doing 20 inspections per week you can easily see how this is going to take many years to complete. However, as we roll out the program there will be obvious tweaking to the process and many improvements as we go along. Inspections will only be done during the warmer season and yes we may be able to do it quicker once we have better touch and feel as to how this will work. I am sure you can appreciate that we want to have the homeowner present during inspection and taking into account our geography and the sparsity of residents it will not be easy to line up appointments. It is not like going down a city street and doing a specific number each day.

Isaac Hale: I would like to see some encouragement for voluntary compliance with septic inspection. The inspection process, while not pleasant, is neither difficult nor time consuming. Voluntary inspection properly documented either by individuals or professionals would speed up the process considerably. Rather than waiting for the mandatory system we as individuals can be making sure our systems are running well. If that can be acknowledged those who are choosing to be non-compliant can be focussed on.

Cindy Kelsey: I feel that the committee is going in the right direction with focusing on sensitive lakes first. With the expedited time frame of this program it may result in increased costs for the tax payers. I feel that the time frame for now is acceptable for the implementation of this program until we can have a better grasp of how this program is going to run and the costs associated with it. If you are concerned about your septic systems you can always contact the KLF&A health unit to have your septic inspected.

If you have any other specific questions for any of the candidates, you can contact them directly at:

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Isaac Hale- isaachale335@gmail.com

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