

# City of Kawartha Lakes: Ward 1 Councillor Candidates

## Ward 1 Candidates

- Raymonde Blais Couture
- Don Logan
- Rob Macklem
- Emmett Yeo

Born and raised in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Moved to Toronto in 1980 with my husband. Was fortunate enough to travel to Kirkfield every weekend for 11 years to escape the busy city and bring my children camping. In November of 1999, we purchased our home on McGuire's Beach Road. In 2011, we started our own family business. In July of 2015 with a strong desire to better our community, I became the president of McGuire Beach Property Owner's Association. After having some trials and tribulations to overcome to improve our road with my interactions with the city, our present councillor and the mayor I made a promise to run in the next election. Here I am! I may not have political background but I am a resident of this community who strongly believes we need to have our best interest in mind at all times.

## Raymonde Blais Couture

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own family business. In July of 2015 with a strong desire to better our community, I became the president of McGuire Beach Property Owner's Association. After having some trials and tribulations to overcome to improve our road with my interactions with the city, our present councillor and the mayor I made a promise to run in the next election. Here I am! I may not have political background but I am a resident of this community who strongly believes we need to have our best interest in mind at all times.

Some of my priorities are :

**Enforce service agreement for private and un-assumed roads:**

Our private and un-assumed residents deserve services and assistance to better the road conditions, as well as ensure accessible roads year-round, especially in case of emergencies.

**Implement bylaws for short-term rentals:**

We need to enforce bylaws to protect the residents that work so hard and wish to enjoy all the beauty, and peace the Kawartha Lakes has to offer.

**Keep Ward 1 tax dollars within Ward 1:**

As taxpayers, we should ensure our taxes are targeted towards building and maintaining our towns and protecting our lakes.

**Doctor in rural areas:**

We need to ensure our communities have access to a Doctor within our town without having to commute to the city to have the services and assistance we deserve.

In addition, I would like to create an association to unite all the private & un-assumed road associations within the ward together. To ensure we have equal rights and benefits.

Ward 1 needs their own voice! We need a change in council. Together we can make that change. Together we can make a difference.

## Don Logan

My family has been here since the Clovis Period. I've been on the Norland Fire Department for 31 years, and I've been running Kawatha Garage for the last 18 years, providing year-round employment for 9 people. I drive a tow truck which gives me the benefit of getting into every road and area in Ward 1, 2 and 3, so I can see the progress or deterioration of roads, and have the advantage of talking to many, many people.

I'm seeking election because I'm tired and frustrated with the disconnect between city hall and the affairs of the communities. We're forever sitting at the kids' table and we never get the main course. The city needs to seek input from the small communities it services, and to be accountable to them in some manner.

We have to be prepared for the influx of people starting new lives up here away from the city. Our challenge is to set up more and better services for the newcomers and the people already here. My experiences from both the fire department and the automotive service is that new

comers are a great resource because of the knowledge they bring from their former careers. They have the time and the ambition to improve their communities.

I feel we have management and accountability problems with our civil servants, most of the problems occur between the planning stage and the execution stage. Once that is stabilized we can put more resources into cottage roads and services.

From my research short-term rentals are a widespread problem affecting people's quality of life. There are a lot of people working on solutions in different municipalities and we need to share ideas on how to solve it. The waterfront property taxes are disproportionate to the services that are being provided. I understand this because my business at Kawatha Garage is taxed at \$4500 a year and I get garbage pickup but because of my volume I have to pay for a bin. We can't do anything else with this land but to develop it for living accommodations so we need to ease up on the development regulations.

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## Rob Macklem

I grew up going to the family cottage, built my home, raised three children, operated my cabinetry business, and play with my two grandchildren in Ward 1. I understand the interests of both seasonal and permanent residents.

Thus far as Ward 1 Councillor I've served on the Culture & Heritage task force, Municipal Heritage, Property Standards, Order to Restrain, Waste Strategy and Planning Committees, the Dalton, Carden and Norland Management Boards. I've joined the Miller Public Engagement Committee, Kirkfield and District Historical Society, Victoria County Historical Society and Norland Summer Festival Committee.

In the short term it's my intention to follow through on the development of a Grant Program for the purposes of supporting the provision of Medical Services to

satisfactory level. I foresee a future with a financial incentives program for doctor retention as well as recruitment in rural areas. We're fortunate not to be out of landfill space, but in the not so distant future we will be faced with how to manage waste. I'd like to continue being on the Waste Management Strategy Committee to turn this into opportunity revisiting curbside collection of additional materials.

Policy for short term rentals & road ownership status service levels & LSA's still need to be made, I want to see an equitable service level policy for un-assumed and private roads established.

I look forward to the term ahead, working with a reduced Council right off the bat we increase your odds of being heard. I respectfully ask for your VOTE to continue working for the people!

## Emmett Yeo

I am a self employed, family man, volunteer and candidate for Councillor Ward 1, these are my 300 words, without all the filler.

- Tax increases should not exceed the annual cost of living increase
- Council must hold staff accountable for their budgets
- We must protect our lakes and rivers now to drink in their success in the future
- We must continue to lobby the Province to look at the way property taxes are assessed, to lessen the burden on Waterfront property owners
- Our MPP is a sitting Minister in the new Provincial Government, we have to take advantage of this and be ready to partner with the upper levels of government to push our agenda forward.
- I believe in Conservation, but not at any cost

- I don't believe government should regulate short term rentals in the City, the less government interference in matters involving private property the better
- We must continue to cut through the red tape when it comes to building and planning, there has to be a better way, a less frustrating way
- We must continue on our aggressive roads plan, it is a good investment to bring all our roads up to an acceptable standard
- We must continue to foster growth in our downtowns, encourage small business and economic development
- I believe it is time to get tough with owners of derelict properties, these are dangerous eyesores in our communities
- I believe everyone should have a Doctor but it shouldn't be the responsibility of the Municipality, the Province has to pick the ball back up here, they dropped it.
- I believe volunteering can be very rewarding and they should be supported and encouraged

**Your voice in the North, Vote YEO**