

2018 Municipal Election

Candidate Responses

To Chamber Member's Questions

We asked, they responded...

Earlier this month, we asked our members for feedback on what questions they had for their candidates related specifically to business issues. We synthesized these into five main questions covering the themes of: Economic Development, Year-round Prosperity, Housing, Internet and Cell Connectivity, and the Environment.

We posed these questions to all candidates running in the 2018 Municipal Election from each of the four municipalities in Haliburton County. Responses had to be less than 100 words, and would be posted as they were received with no edits. Any responses that exceed the 100-mark were truncated, as indicated by //.

Please see the following document for the candidate responses to each of the five questions posed by the Chamber.

No Response from...

Office:	Candidate Name
Mayor:	Jarrett Campbell
Deputy Mayor:	Lisa Schell
Councillor at Large:	Ron Nesbitt
Ward 1:	Clayton Cameron Rob Luke Dwight Thomas
Ward 2:	Pam Sayne
Ward 3:	Russ Duhaime Jean Neville

2018 Municipal Election

Candidate Responses

To Chamber Member's Questions

Q1

This year, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has initiated the #buycloseby project to enhance local business prosperity. In terms of economic development and business and community prosperity, what are your two main priorities for overall improvement on a short- and long-term basis?

Mayor	Brent Devolin	<p>The Minden Hills Economic Task Force has had several outcomes this past year, including the Economic Development position that has been created to help improve both short and long term needs to aid our local economy. The task force unanimously supported a re-creation of a local BIA and this will be an immediate priority. Emily Stonehouse (Economic Development, Marketing and Destination Officer) will begin a process of engaging all stakeholders to identify all factors that would be constructive. Community Improvement Plans, Business Retention and Improvement Plans, By-Laws, Official Plan amendments, etc. are just a few of the tools that//</p>
	Wayne Hancock	<p>I believe we need to start with our Official Plan and general Zoning Bylaw. This will streamline the process and allow for more development. If we can attract small industry to our area, we will have employment growth and more opportunities for our young people. This is key to our community prosperity. On the second item, I believe Internet and cell phone service are critical. This will drive our home industries and allow people to work, live and play in this area.</p>
Councillor at Large	John Teljeur	<p>One of the priorities is we need a unified voice from our business community to move our community forward. We will consult with the business community to begin the process of establishing a BIA or Business Association and bring it to a timely conclusion.</p> <p>Establish a Minden Hills Events Program (funded in part from a reallocation of the Recreation budget) to enhance current area events (and attract new ones) that demonstrate a solid plan for increasing visitors and economic impact to the Minden Hills community.</p> <p>Minden Hills should form a committee (or utilize a more representational Recreation Committee) with the //</p>

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To Chamber Member's Questions

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Ward 1	Richard Bradley	I think we should continue to promote this program with side by side comparisons of the local businesses or service providers to help demonstrate when and where there is a local competitive choice. I have no doubt there are many local businesses that provide superior price, service and support for their customers than a competitor that is an hour or two down the road. We need to work with the Chamber of Commerce to help share this program through perhaps an insert in the tax bills as well as links on the website and social media.
	Jennifer Hughey	As someone who is running for council in Minden Hills, my main #buycloseby strategy is to get more people into the downtown business area. Off the HWY 35 corridor and onto our thriving main street. There is an opportunity for a sign that draws people into town, that is consistent with the murals throughout our town in the past. Another priority for the entire county is the issue with transportation. Residents need to feel like they can #buycloseby with access to a way into town. This allows them to be independent longer, in their homes where they thrive best. An //
	Bob Carter	<p>Short term;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure a successful CIP (Community Improvement Plan) 2) Work with existing & new staff to ensure the town focuses on collaborating with investors to assist them to start and/or grow their business. <p>Long term;</p> <p>We need a vision. Today we have many initiatives and plans (CIP, Economic Development, Town, Housing, Transportation, etc.).</p> <p>My priority is to engage all the stakeholders to agree on where we want to be in ten years. Then, we develop the overall plan that guides all of the dedicated groups, plans and initiatives to work together to reach our goals.</p>
Ward 2	Mike Grozelle	There is no short term solution to prosperity, only by getting our infrastructure inline and brought up to date with proper funding and up to date training for our staff will we be able to move forward with prosperity for everyone. We need an industrial park area where small business can set up with minimal start up red tape. We need to send a message to the rest of Ontario that Minden Hills is open for business with the infrastructure that can support them, the best trained staff to help them, and an available work force.

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To Chamber Member's Questions

Q2

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce wants to see every business prosperous year-round. If elected, what will your contributions be to support a healthy economy on a year-round basis, particularly in the off-season?

Mayor	Brent Devolin	Marketing efforts to showcase the winter activities that exist in our region need to be supported and expanded. Many businesses do well in 2 or 3 of our annual seasons, but most struggle with the winter. An inventory of existing winter events is required and help to existing stakeholders in the creation of new events (i.e. Haliburton Snowshoe event for example) to boost the appeal to come to the region in the winter. I also think the creation of videos showcasing how the County can be enjoyed in the winter shown in an educational framework could be successful in//
	Wayne Hancock	We need to attract tourism throughout the year and invest in winter activities. We also need to grow small industries and employment opportunities. The skilled labour this attracts will drive the economy year round. We must expand Internet and cell service to accommodate more home based business employment.
Councillor at Large	John Teljeur	In addition to the responses for Economic Development, we need to proactively attract and create events in the area. With the development of a downtown park (near the former Pritchard House site) and an improved fairgrounds, we need to work with our businesses (BIA or Business Association) as well as event stakeholders to host/attract events that bring people into town and support the area economy. Events could include: Rib Fest, concerts, carnivals and Timberfest.

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Q2

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Ward 1	Richard Bradley	One way to keep businesses prosperous all year is to have more people spending more time in the Minden and Haliburton County area. By promoting existing spring, autumn and winter attractions, encouraging and supporting more of them. To re-inforce the question about internet service, have all businesses and service providers include in there promotional materials that they have free high speed wireless available if they do and make use of all variety of print, electronic and social media advertising to promote Minden and Haliburton activities and businesses year round.
	Jennifer Hughey	The financial contribution to a healthy community, to me, means less red tape for business owners wanting to make downtown the best it can be. While we all understand the building code requirements and minimum safety require to open, it's really important to welcome vs. hinder. We have a great thing going around the river, that we need to play up more. We need to encourage businesses to offer seasonal sales and to participate in theme-marketing events that draw those into downtown for activities and therefore, spend money within the township. The off-season is a challenge for all municipalities, but //
	Bob Carter	Minden's population is growing at nearly 8% per annum. This growth is primarily retirees moving into our community. We must have a government that prioritizes business investment and growth. I will work to build the housing, transportation and infrastructure so business have workers to provide the goods and services to meet our population's needs. Permanent residents are the foundation of a healthy economy in all seasons. While our youth are our future, a healthy, thriving community includes retail, healthcare, entertainment, recreational and fitness facilities to provide activities & services & jobs for all age groups.
Ward 2	Mike Grozelle	Affordable housing, infrastructure, well trained staff, an industrial area, a work force and the year round economy will look after it self.

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Candidate Responses

To Chamber Member's Questions

Q3

The feedback from member organizations of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is that many businesses across the County are struggling with staff shortages, and that affordable housing is a significant barrier to bringing additional skilled workers to the area to fill these shortages. How will you address housing affordability and availability in this area, if elected?

Mayor	Brent Devolin	<p>I am committed to working with all stakeholders in the region to resolve the housing issues that affect us all. I will continue to work on the Poverty Reduction Round Table (a City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton initiative) as a board member to address this regionally. I also intend to continue to be a board member of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation that continues to build new units in the area. My intention is also to continue in the lobbying effort to have the Provincial Government modify the Ontario Building Code to increase the options//</p>
	Wayne Hancock	<p>Affordable housing has been the focus of KHL and their program should continue. In addition, I believe we need to look at housing size and types and allow for more apartments, townhouses and granny flats. We need variety in housing types and prices. This allows our skilled labour affordability to purchase new homes in our area.</p>
Councillor at Large	John Teljeur	<p>As a growing community we need to look at options for growth and sustainability. It is equally important to not only attract new residents (for employment opportunities) to our community but also be able to provide the options to keep our current residents here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential locations, support and viability of a Tiny Homes Park which is permissible under the appropriate zoning. • Reduce or eliminate development fees. • Partner with developers, Federal and Provincial governments to look at additional opportunities on municipal or available lands to add affordable housing options. • Exhausting all other possibilities, investigate the possibilities of developing a Real //

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Ward 1	Richard Bradley	I believe that affordable housing is the most important key to poverty reduction and rental housing is a problem. We are going to need the help of Federal, Provincial and County levels of Government to step up and provide much of the funding. We need to work with M.P.P. Laurie Scott and MP Jamie Schmale to help us achieve the goal. Our job as a municipal council is to provide the facts and apply for and lobby to secure the funding we need to increase the number of affordable rental units in Minden and the county. We also need to //
	Jennifer Hughey	Housing challenges have affected myself and my aging family members directly in the past three years since moving back to the municipality. Those who have accepted jobs crucial to the success of the community that offer salary and benefits, with or without families, find it extremely difficult to find large enough places that are affordable for the area. Landlords who have had poor experiences weening out those who may not be able to afford high monthly rent. If those jobs posted by businesses are ones drawing people from outside #myhaliburtonhighlands, then there should be research done to make sure there //
	Bob Carter	We have a shortage of all kinds of housing except for expensive, lakefront cottages. It affects many groups and is a barrier to economic health. I am on the Housing Task Force and we identified four options that need to be developed. I don't believe the government will solve our problems; we must do it ourselves. I have researched and studied Community Bonds (like regular bonds but with a financial & social purpose). I have interest from local investors who want to help develop and build the housing we need in our community.
Ward 2	Mike Grozelle	I would support another project like Hunter Creek Estates, I believe that home ownership is far better than renting, it gives people a sense of pride. A project like Hunter Creek is by far more affordable to seniors and young families just starting out.

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To Chamber Member's Questions

Q4

Businesses across the Highlands are dealing with a lack of service options with regards to internet and cell connectivity, with dead-zones and high-cost options being the norm in much of our County. This can be counter-productive to business success. If elected, what will you do to enhance internet and cell service availability across the County?

Mayor	Brent Devolin	Internet and cell connectivity are the number one priority for the long-term economic viability for Haliburton County. I have been happy as part of the Eastern Warden's Caucus (EOWC) and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to have rolled out the Municipal Fibre initiative that created the backbone of an improved communications framework. This has made possible the North Frontenac Telephone residential fibre installs that are currently happening in Haliburton and Minden. The next step is the mobile broadband initiative that has the largest potential impact in the County. This will give coverage to over 90% of all Households //
	Wayne Hancock	Internet and cell connectivity are critical. The County has embarked on a study to cost out providing these upgrades to all users. I think this is a wise decision and I would have our Township partner on this. This connectivity is critical to business success. I would also propose a multi year budget that will allow us to study and then if appropriate partner with companies that can bring that service to our community.
Councillor at Large	John Teljeur	<p>A lack of dependable cell service is not only a safety issue but also prohibits our seasonal residents from taking their office to the cottage and thus extending the amount of time they spend with us. In addition, people who want to start a home based business are at a disadvantage to those living near town and areas where service is provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibilities of offering municipal broad band. • Continue to advocate for 100% high speed coverage of the County. • Investigate potential partnerships with cell carriers to use public areas to increase coverage.

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To Chamber Member's Questions

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Ward 1	Richard Bradley	<p>I think we need to continue to encourage the internet service providers to continue to invest in Minden and the surrounding areas with as much buried fibre optic cable as possible as well as increasing the capacity of their wireless services for homes and business alike. If more towers are required then we need to ask the providers to put in towers that provide the service, but blend as much as possible to the existing landscape. If we had better coverage and faster speeds we could see many more people tele-commuting from Minden for more days of the year, it //</p>
	Jennifer Hughey	<p>As a small business owner that works directly from a laptop in my own home in Minden Hills, internet and cellular connectivity is the number one importance for the success of my projects. If elected, I would work with the current task force in the township to see that Haliburton County continues to move through it's mobile broadband expansion project with the help of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network. As well, learn more about the broadband internet gap analysis for the region and how the municipalities can work together to reduce dead-zones and lower the cost options for all residents.</p>
	Bob Carter	<p>Early in the 2000's I was building telephone, cellular and internet networks in the Caribbean and the jungles of Central America. I was always perplexed to return home to rural Ontario to networks that were far less capable than what existed in those countries. I know it is not a challenge of technology.</p> <p>I strongly support the efforts of the EOWC and the EORN and will work with them to unite all levels of government and private industry to provide the people and the businesses of Eastern Ontario with the cost effective services we need to develop and grow.</p>
Ward 2	Mike Grozelle	<p>By increasing the work force and number of businesses in our area the cell companies will have no choice but to enhance their service. Now that being said there is no harm in pointing out their need to enhance their service, every day until they listen.</p>

2018 Municipal Election

Candidate Responses

To Chamber Member's Questions

Q5

Haliburton County is an area that is rich in natural beauty and resources – our clean waters and pristine wildlands are integral to our economy and to the success of many of our member organizations. If elected, how do you propose to maintain a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability?

Mayor	Brent Devolin	Our pristine natural environment is the key element that underpins the well being of our community. All tools that can be utilized to protect our environment (i.e. County tree cutting bylaws, Municipal By-Laws, Site plan control, Official Plans, etc.) need to be enforced and consideration of all types of development need to be examined with the environment impact in mind and be directed in a fashion to mitigate the negative elements of these changes. I will continue to support local groups like CHA, CEWF, Enviroment Haliburton, Haliburton Field Naturalists and other stakeholders as we continue to evolve policy in //
	Wayne Hancock	I believe we need to protect environmentally sensitive lands through our Official Plan and we must ensure that each development provides all the information required. This, in part , would include species at risk, vegetation and proper mapping. Economic development should only occur after all the studies and reports (geotechnical, environmental, hydrology, storm water management, tree inventory, etc) are finalized and approved. We must maintain growth and economic development while respecting our environment. We must ensure that a healthy environment is preserved for our children, grandchildren and future generations.
Councillor at Large	John Teljeur	<p>The natural environment is a big reason why many of us chose to live here. Sadly, there are issues jeopardizing our environment and our enjoyment of it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move forward on implementing a septic tank inspection program using a similar approach as our neighbouring municipalities. Keep it simple. • Provide increased oversight into the management and accountability of the landfills and their adherence to environmental policies. • Investigate the best practices of other similar sized communities to adopt a composting program that would be in a controlled area (bins or fencing) of the landfill that would control access to food sources by scavengers.

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Ward 1	Richard Bradley	<p>It's quite often much to do with where certain types of businesses are allowed to establish themselves. We in Minden already have bylaws for Home Businesses and Home Industries that help protect neighbourhoods from noise, vibration, odours and other potentially disruptive activities. I think we need to judge each case individually, as far as variances and rezoning applications, with the proper level of neighbour consultation and environmental impact assessment to help businesses establish themselves in areas that are not going to put our environment at risk.</p>
	Jennifer Hughey	<p>Five days ago, warnings to governments around the world were to consider "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" to "avoid disastrous levels of global warming."</p> <p>We do have an abundance of natural beauty and resources in #myhaliburtonhighlands, but the balance needs to be really worked on to take that 2030 deadline seriously, regardless of economic development. As residents of the area, full-time or seasonal, we need to take the fact that there isn't sufficient natural shoreline within Haliburton County, at ALL, according to the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (CHA). And the threat of blue-green //</p>
	Bob Carter	<p>In Minden Hills & Haliburton County our economic development and the ability to have a vibrant community are predicated on our ability to protect and maintain our environment. The work to protect our environment (e.g., septic inspection & rehabilitation, climate change action plans) will create jobs.</p> <p>We must recognize the environmental and the financial impacts of our projects. I will work to ensure that planning & development are done in harmony with the environment. That will continue to make our community an attractive place to visit and live, which will encourage economic development.</p>
Ward 2	Mike Grozelle	<p>Educate the masses and punish the offenders. The laws are there now lets enforce them. Not just some of the offenders but all of the offenders.</p>