

1- All of Council is aware that waterfront property owners pay the large majority of taxes that fund the ongoing operation of the township. We don't have a formal communication process with these property owners, but individual Council members attempt to stay in touch with lake associations in their wards. NFLAA is understood to be the common voice of the majority of lake associations. Currently the township is working on an issue identified by several lake associations- how to deal with problems at some short term rental properties. Another issue which is brought forward regularly is the question of mandatory septic inspections, and the current Council remains divided on this question. In order to engage with NFLAA concerns in future, I feel that direct ongoing communication between NFLAA Executive and the Mayor and one or more Councillors has worked well. Delegations to Council around specific issues are also important.

2- I am in favour of limited mandatory inspections, probably restricted to 'lake trout' lakes initially. There are many ways this could be carried out, including township loan programs for some property owners. To date, Council has been unwilling to implement anything mandatory. I feel that the current voluntary program has a very low uptake rate, and that 'problem systems' can get missed indefinitely.

3- I'm on the 3-person subcommittee which wrote the proposal for an STR bylaw. It's encouraging to see four townships more or less agreeing to take a common approach, but the devil is going to be in the details. I'm concerned about (a) creating yet another bylaw, (b) new rules which could punish old, well established cottage rentals, (c) the cost of administering such a bylaw, and (d) the real-life enforceability of a bylaw. I'm told that there's been only one complaint this year. Currently the CAOs from the four townships are instructed to report back to Council before the end of this term. Basically, I remain open on the question of our immediate need for a bylaw.

4- My top 3 priorities- Preserve the wilderness nature of the township, help small local business enterprises as much as possible, and demonstrate a bit of leadership on the topic of the climate crisis.