

Thank you for reaching out, and for the work NFLAA does bringing 18 lake associations together with one voice. Lake health isn't a side issue for North Frontenac, it's central to who we are, so I've taken real care with these answers.

1. What position are you vying for?

I'm running for Mayor of North Frontenac.

2. Working relationship with NFLAA and Lake Associations

NFLAA represents a huge share of the waterfront property owners in this township, and I don't want that relationship to only exist around election time. Here's what I'll commit to:

I will meet with the NFLAA executive at least twice a year to hear what's working and what isn't, not just once every four years. I will bring NFLAA into early conversations, not after-the-fact notifications, on any Township policy or by-law touching water quality, septic systems, shoreline development, or short-term rentals. My office will maintain a direct point of contact for lake associations so concerns don't have to work their way through the whole bureaucracy to get heard. And I'll keep that door open to each of the 18 member associations individually, not just through NFLAA as an umbrella, because I know every lake has its own character and its own concerns.

3. Septic System Re-Inspection Program

North Frontenac's mandatory septic inspection program is already in motion, not just under study. Following a Township Solicitor's opinion confirming our authority under the Municipal Act, Council voted this past March to move from the existing voluntary program toward a mandatory inspection requirement for any property with a septic system over ten years old at the time of sale, run through the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office, the same office that already administers our voluntary program, with enforcement through the Chief Building Official. Final details on cost, fees, and exemptions were expected before Council this August. Meanwhile, the voluntary program has outgrown its own budget this year; more people requested inspections than we'd funded, which tells me residents are ready for this. As Mayor, I'll push to get the remaining details finalized without delay, and I want to see this grow into a periodic re-inspection cycle over time, not just a one-time check at sale, because a septic system's risk to the lake doesn't wait for the property to change hands.

4. Short-term Rentals (STRs)

Short-term rentals are already a real issue here, not hypothetical. This didn't start with the Environmental Task Force; it goes back to August 2022, when Councillor John Inglis and then-Deputy Mayor Gerry Martin worked directly with the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance to propose a two-tier STR licensing model to a joint working group of North Frontenac, Central Frontenac, and Addington Highlands. NFLAA didn't just raise a concern back then; you helped write the original proposal.

It took a long road from that proposal to real Council action, staff surveys in 2023, strategic planning sessions that listed STRs as both an opportunity and a threat, and a gap before the Environmental Task Force picked it back up in 2025. But this year it's moving. The Task Force's February 2026 report recommends nearly the same two-tier structure NFLAA helped shape in 2022, non-commercial rentals under four weeks a year with no license required, commercial rentals above that requiring a license, septic inspection, and a capped number of licenses, built explicitly on the Tiny Township model the courts have now upheld twice. A comprehensive report to Council this past March counted 218 unlicensed rental properties in the township, and on August 13th, Council voted to move forward with a Request for Quotations and directed staff to bring on a consultant to complete a full business case.

I support finishing what NFLAA helped start four years ago. Get that business case done, and get a bylaw in place early in the next Council's term. Rural townships shouldn't need a decade to do what Tiny Township has already proven the courts will uphold.

5. Development vs. Environmental Protection

For me, the lakes come first. North Frontenac's environment isn't just scenery; it's the reason our economy, our tourism, and our property values exist at all. That doesn't mean I'm against development. We can grow responsibly, but any proposal needs to show it won't compromise water quality, shoreline health, or the capacity of our lakes before it moves forward, not after. Growth that damages the lakes isn't growth for North Frontenac; it's borrowing against our own future.

6. Top three priorities

Lake health and water quality, because it underpins our environment, our tourism economy, and our quality of life here. Rural infrastructure, because our roads and logging roads take a real beating every winter, and reliable infrastructure is what lets residents, emergency services, and visitors get where they need to go. And property taxes, making sure the tax burden on residents and cottage owners stays fair and sustainable, especially as we invest in the lake protection measures this community is asking for.

I'd welcome the chance to speak with NFLAA directly before the election if that would be useful, and thank you again for putting these questions to all of us.

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