

Robert Lesperance

Ward 2 Candidate

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Dear All Respected Members of the NFLAA,

First, let me start by thanking you for the opportunity to introduce myself to the alliance. As an Official Candidate for Ward # 2 of North Frontenac. My name is Robert Lesperance. I am a local business owner, providing both construction and wood heating experience to the area. I am a husband and father to 6 children. I am also very interested in the direction of our wonderful community moving forward. The questions that you have asked us are important and worth discussing. I will do my best to answer them, as well as allow you to understand my perspective to each one.

Lake Associations and the NFLAA represent a significant portion of waterfront property in North Frontenac and bring valuable “on-the-ground” knowledge about water quality, shoreline issues and changing local conditions. Working partnerships is something that keeps us all moving forward. I believe a simple, consistent framework for communication works better than anything complicated. Here is what I am thinking;

- Regular 2-way discussions, remaining open to meeting with the NFLAA or individual Lake Associations when invited, and making myself available to hear concerns between formal meetings.
- Occasional formal delegations to Council, supporting the NFLAA (or representative group of the Lake Associations) appearing before Council at appropriate intervals (at least twice a year). This would allow associations to place current priorities and concerns on the public record, while also giving Council the opportunity to respond on the record about steps already taken, work in progress, or realistic next steps on lake-related issues.

- Clear follow-ups, supporting a short-written summary or staff update after such delegations so both the associations and the public can see what was discussed and what actions, if any, are planned.

Protecting water quality in our lakes and rivers is essential. Poorly maintained septic systems can pose a real risk to the health of our waters, and I do take this concern seriously. Several nearby townships including Central Frontenac, Tay Valley, and Rideau Lakes, have moved to mandatory septic re-inspection programs. Typically, these programs are administered by the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office. These programs generally charge or budget in the range of \$95 - \$150 dollars per inspection and aim to cycle through waterfront or priority properties over several years. North Frontenac currently operates a voluntary program with the same office. While the voluntary approach has identified systems needing attention, participation is limited, and many property owners do not respond.

I support exploring a septic re-inspection program, particularly for waterfront properties, with the goal of identifying and addressing failing systems. At the same time, any shift toward a mandatory model must be realistic about Township capacity, fair to property owners, and clear about costs and enforcement. I would like to see a careful review of how neighboring programs are working, what the actual implementation and ongoing costs would be for North Frontenac, and how education and voluntary compliance can still play a strong role. I believe that it could start as something simple and create a by-law that would make a septic inspection mandatory upon the selling of your home. The objective is cleaner lakes, not necessarily a burden on responsible owners.

Short-term Rentals (STR's) can bring economic benefit to the area, but they can also create localized problems with intensity of use, parking, noise, septic capacity, and pressure on the limited housing stock. I understand the Environmental Task Force has been examining this issue and has made recommendations. I do support a fair, fact-based approach that addresses genuine problems without punishing responsible owners. Because the County is also studying short-term rentals and possible Municipal Accommodations Tax (MAT), I prefer coordinating with that work where possible, so we avoid duplicating effort or creating conflicting rules. Any local licensing or regulatory system should be clear, enforceable, and focused on real impacts rather than broad restrictions.

Balancing land-use and our pristine environment is certainly a delicate balance. North Frontenac's lakes, forests, and rural character are among its greatest strengths. At the same time, we need options for housing, modest economic activity, and the ability to live and work here. My approach is Developers should respect environmental limits, especially near water, and follow clear rules that we all can live with. Having said that, we should avoid unnecessary barriers to reasonable, well-planned projects that fit the rural setting. Protecting the

environment and allowing appropriate land use are not always in conflict when decisions are based on good information, fair process, and long-term forward thinking.

Coming into this role as a councilor candidate, my priorities are; Transparency & Accountability, clear public information, meaningful reporting after closed sessions, and careful oversight of major commitments and spending. Practical, Sustainable Solutions for Housing and Infrastructure, which means options that fit our rural character and limited tax base, with honest multi-year planning for roads and services. Protecting what makes North Frontenac Special while remaining fair to Taxpayers, meaning yes, supporting lake health, but also rural character, and community services in ways that are realistic and sustainable for the people who live here.

Thank you very much for the important work you do in protecting our lakes and for giving us candidates the opportunity to share our positions. I appreciate the thoughtful questions and the ongoing contribution of waterfront property owners to the health and character of North Frontenac. I would welcome the chance to continue this and future conversations.

Sincerely,

Robert Lesperance

Candidate for Councilor – Ward # 2
North Frontenac Township

r.lesperanceward2@gmail.com
613-661-0873