

AN OPEN LETTER TO VOTERS IN TINY TOWNSHIP FROM TWO MAYORS

We're taking the unusual step of contacting you directly because we've been on the **inside** and we believe you deserve a second opinion.

You may have already seen the candidate recommendations made by the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FOTTSA) in their publication, *The Tiny Cottager*. FOTTSA is a special interest group of shoreline property owners. There's nothing wrong with that unless, of course, they're in a position to exert control of the Tiny Township Council's agenda.

So before you vote, consider:

- The Tiny Cottager is **not** a daily newspaper. It's not subject to the rigorous checks imposed on professional journalists. It's a publication by a special interest group.
- Tiny Council consists of five members. Three like-minded members voting as a block can control the agenda with little if any debate at Council.
- FOTTSA chose their slate of recommended councillors without employing the fair, open and transparent process that they had relied upon for previous elections.

This in our view is shortsighted and divisive. Yes, shoreline interests need to be represented, but not to the exclusion of a community that also includes back lot property owners, hamlets, businesses, farms and a growing population of retirees. Council must represent **all** residents and not be controlled by a special interest group.

Let's look at just a few examples of the troubling activities of the present Council substantially controlled by the repeatedly endorsed FOTTSA-trio of Lawrence, Claire, and Warren:

- \$275,000 spent on a single-track evaluation of a "Made in Tiny" solution for septage disposal, with no resolution in sight. Septage is still being spread on open fields in Tiny.
- They initiated litigation in connection with a murky property-ownership matter, only to abandon it \$232,000 later.
- A business wanted to locate its factory to produce store fixtures on a property suitably zoned for such in Tiny. The FOTTSA-endorsed trio voted down a supporting motion with no debate. The resulting tax base now resides in Penetanguishene.
- When the Ombudsman reviewed the propriety of a particular closed meeting, and rendered an unfavourable response, the trio moved swiftly to punish that critical voice by rescinding the Ombudsman's appointment.

How much more money has been wasted? How many more opportunities have been lost? Without open and frank debate we will never know. And this needs to change.

We heard from a number of council candidates and numerous ratepayers that they were disappointed the established process of interviewing all candidates prior to municipal elections was abandoned this time. We, along with former Councillor Rob Panasiuk, set out to duplicate the open, transparent, and inclusive process used in the prior three elections, to ensure that **all** candidates would have a fair chance to be heard and champion their candidacy. Accordingly, everyone was offered an opportunity to meet on the same day and have an observer present to sit in on every interview held. All interviewees were asked the same questions and also given time to express any additional information they felt was important for the panel to know.

Based on the interviews that were held, along with an examination of any previous council performance and community involvement, we made a determination as to who we felt would comprise a council that would best represent the interests of the **entire** Tiny community.

In particular, we looked for individuals who we viewed as honest, collaborative, open-minded, independent critical thinkers, who see transparency in government as a good thing. We looked for candidates who have the ability to understand, and the inclination to follow, the regulatory requirements of council. We sought solid citizens who are involved in the community and realize the serious issues our township faces. Based on this we endorse the following candidates:

- **George Cornell**, who served on Council from 2006 – 2010, is running for Mayor. He's a civil engineer with a business background and experience with strategic planning and major budgets. He's a shoreline resident who is dedicated to all of Tiny. Among his many volunteer activities, he helped establish the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre.
- **Steffen Walma** is running for Deputy Mayor. He's young, energetic and actively engaged in the community. He has been an instructor at CFB Borden and worked closely with the First Nations community in Sandy Lake, ON. He has a degree in Kinesiology from McMaster University, is married and has returned to the area to build a life with his family in Tiny. He's a tech-savvy individual intent on introducing new ways to communicate with Tiny residents.
- **Cindy Hastings** grew up in the area and is a driving force on the municipality's Parks and Recreation Committee. She studied advertising at Centennial College and has a business background. Cindy, through her work as a well-respected member of Tiny's Committee of Adjustment, has extensive knowledge of shoreline, farming and hamlet communities.
- **Gibb Wishart** currently serves on Council and is its delegate on the Committees of Adjustment and Community Recreation. He holds business degrees from both McGill and Ryerson Universities and has worked for large Canadian and multinational corporations.

As a group these candidates provide a combination of gender, educational, and generational diversity. Together they bring solid council experience, a fresh perspective and new energy.

We ask you to seriously consider these candidates and make a thoughtful choice when voting.

Ray Millar, Mayor (2010-2014) and Councillor (2003-06)

Peggy Breckenridge, Mayor (2006-10) and Councillor (2003-06)