



Election Special Edition - 2026 Whitestone Municipal Election

Welcome to this special election edition of the *Wahwashkesh Current*, dedicated to helping our members and local taxpayers stay informed about the current Municipality of Whitestone election.

In this edition, we have brought together important information to help you understand the issues that matter to our community and where the candidates stand.

Inside this special edition, you'll find:

- **How to Vote:** Detailed voting instructions to help you participate in the election.
- **Election Survey Results:** A summary of the key issues and priorities identified by our members and local taxpayers through our election survey.
- **All Candidates Meeting Responses:** Written responses from participating candidates to the questions raised by our community and presented at the All Candidates Meeting.
- **Candidate Platforms:** Platform information from candidates who were unable to attend the All Candidates Meeting, providing an opportunity to learn more about their positions and priorities.

Our goal is to provide a balanced, informative resource that allows you to review the candidates' positions, consider the issues that matter most to you, and **make an informed decision when casting your vote.**

Every Vote Matters!

Municipal decisions directly affect our lake, our properties, and our community. From environmental protection and responsible development to municipal services and taxation, the decisions made by Council help shape the future of Lake Wah Wash Kesh.

The Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association is a non-partisan organization. We do not endorse any candidate. The information in this newsletter is provided strictly for educational and informational purposes.

We encourage everyone to take the time to review this edition, stay informed, and participate in the municipal election.

Voting is an important opportunity to have your priorities represented and help protect the future of our lake for generations to come.

How to Vote

Voting is open until Monday October 26, 2026 at 8:00 PM

In early October, you should have received your **Voter Information Letter (VIL)** from the Municipality of Whitestone. This letter contains important information and instructions on how to cast your vote in the 2026 Municipal Election.

Haven't Received Your Voter Information Letter?

If you have not received your letter, please contact the **Municipality of Whitestone Clerk's Office**:

Phone: 705-389-2466

Email: elections@whitestone.ca

Ways to Vote

Your Voter Information Letter includes instructions for voting by:

- **Mail**
- **Internet**
- **Phone**

Questions About Online or Telephone Voting?

For additional information and answers to frequently asked questions, please refer to the following resource:

[2026 eVoting – Common Voter Questions & Answers](#)

Need Assistance?

If you need help navigating the voting process, please reach out to **admin@lakewahwashkesh.ca**, and we will arrange for someone to contact you and offer assistance.

Community Questions & Candidate Responses

Prior to the all-candidate meeting, residents and taxpayers were invited to complete a survey identifying the issues and priorities most important to them. These responses helped shape the questions presented to candidates during the meeting, ensuring that the discussion reflected the concerns of our community.



ISSUES RAISED BY SURVEY RESPONDENTS



Survey results reflect the number of respondents who raised each topic and are not intended as a scientific poll of all Whitestone residents.

Whitestone All Candidates Meeting – Recap & Candidate Responses

The recent **Whitestone All Candidates Meeting (ACM)** was a great success, with more than **150 residents and taxpayers participating**, both in person and online.

The event was a collaborative effort involving four local lake associations, bringing our communities together to hear directly from candidates running in the 2026 Whitestone Municipal Election.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the candidates who participated, **Rod Jackson for moderating**, and the four lake associations for their efforts in organizing this important community event.

We had hoped to record the meeting to share each candidate's responses with those unable to attend. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not recorded.

To ensure this valuable information was still available, the Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association reached out to all six participating candidates and invited them to provide written responses to the community's questions.

We are pleased to share that all six candidates responded!

In the following pages, you will find each participating candidate's written responses, along with the questions presented at the meeting. This provides an opportunity to review their positions on the issues identified by our community and make an informed decision when voting.

We encourage everyone to review the responses, consider the issues that matter most to you, and participate in the municipal election.



GEORGE COMRIE – CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS MAYOR OF WHITESTONE

1) Introduction Thanks for foregoing the free barbeque in Ardbeg and joining us this afternoon. I'm George Comrie. I've been the Mayor of Whitestone since the fall of 2019, and I'm seeking re-election as your Mayor because I believe strongly in the future of our Community, and I have a plan for us to achieve our potential. That plan depends on us working together to harness our human and natural resources. My opponents for Mayor seem to want to divide our community along the lines of age, income, where they live (even what lake they're on, or not) length of time spent in Whitestone, and so on. But I believe our unique and diverse community can and must come together to agree on our future, and then work together to achieve it. That will not happen by accident. It will require the right kind of leadership, not coercion and bullying, but consultation and collaboration.

My platform has three main elements: They are: (i) Building our Community – through recreation, health and wellness, public safety, food security, and volunteerism;

(ii) Preserving our Natural Environment – through land use planning process improvements, lake capacity planning, water quality testing, flood and fire protection, and waste management;

(iii) Growing and Diversifying our Economy – through agriculture and food, forestry,eco-tourism, attainable housing, and energy efficiency; and a supporting element of

(iv) Enhancing our governance and administration, and engaging more effectively with our community.

For more details, please see my election website at www.gcomrie.ca

2) Lake Water Quality and Wetland Protection

Water is probably Whitestone's most valuable natural resource, and our supply of waterfront for development is diminishing. We need to do more to protect it for the future. That's why we need:

- Lake plans for all populated lakes;
- A comprehensive program of water quality testing on all populated lakes;
- A septic inspection program;
- Stronger shoreline protection measures;
- Waterfront planning enhancements in our Official Plan and Zoning By-Law;
- Advocacy for a Magnetawan River Watershed Council under the Province's new Conservation Authority framework.

3) Planning and Development Concerns

Commercial or home industry uses must be compatible with the character of the zone. (An OP and Zoning By-Law issue.) Capacity for waterfront development will be a function of each lake plan, and reflected in the OP. We can't keep operating on the assumption that if you can find 100 metres of undeveloped shoreline somewhere you can create a new building lot. Each lake / river section needs some percentage of unoccupied shoreline. Shoreline clearing is more a construction phase issue, which can be mitigated through site plan control.

4) Further Public Review of OP

I expect further public review of the Municipality's draft OP once the first draft has been

reviewed by MMAH. This will take place in the next term of Council. We have just been advised that the Province is in the process of mandating a new standardized Official Plan template by 2029. It may therefore be to Whitestone's advantage to reformat our OP to the new template before finalizing it. As mentioned previously, we will also require lake plans for populated lakes and river sections in the Municipality, in order to assess their remaining capacities for development, and to develop appropriate development criteria for the lake-specific sections of the OP.

5) Environmental and Safety Concerns at Clear Lake and Black Lake

The abusive situation in this area is currently out of control and unenforceable. Transients who don't pay taxes in Whitestone and don't support our local economy are creating illegal campgrounds on crown land and disturbing our residents, and large all-terrain vehicles are tearing up the trails and making them

impassable for our residents who use them to access their properties. I will therefore be recommending to our current Council that it formally request the MNR to close the adjacent crown lands to overnight camping and large all-terrain vehicles, as an interim measure until we can develop a long-term plan for transitioning the area to sustainable eco-tourism, working with OPP, MNR, MECP, and other stakeholders.

6) Prioritizing Capital Spending

Recognizing that Whitestone's existing physical assets - which by now should all be included in our Asset Management Plan – require adequate reserves to fund their repair and replacement, the question is really how to prioritize spending on new assets and improvements to existing assets. My approach would be to first determine the size of the new capital funding budget based on an acceptable tax rate increase, then assess each potential project on its benefit to ratepayers based on recognized needs. An attempt should be made to “spread the projects around” so that they aren't concentrated in any one area of the

Municipality. The availability of grant funding will also influence these decisions.

7) Potential Conflicts of Interest The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act is quite aggressive in limiting the involvement of Councillors in deciding or influencing any matter in which they have a demonstrable personal interest. That does not, however, prevent other Councillors from supporting a colleague's application or project. Councillors are expected to base all their decisions on the broad public interest, and refrain from deciding matters based on personal friendships or reciprocal “you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours” understandings. Such understandings may be part of normal political compromise for routine policy decisions, but they are totally unacceptable when the matter in question involves a Councillor's self-interest. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to prosecute these situations.

8) Miscellaneous

Given that all open Council meetings are currently audio and video recorded, I'm not sure what would constitute a more complete record of a Council meeting. (Other than perhaps a full transcript à la Hansard.) I think it is everyone's expectation that Municipal policies are applied consistently. That said, the standard is equity (fairness), not equality, such that individual circumstances are taken into consideration. Whitestone definitely needs a formal operating procedure for dealing with ratepayer complaints and concerns, so that they don't “fall through the cracks”. All correspondence should receive an official response.

9) Amalgamation

I have always been categorically opposed to amalgamation for West Parry Sound municipalities (including Whitestone) on the grounds that: We are all significantly different and have different characteristics, issues, and opportunities; We would lose independence over our decision-making and destiny; We can and do work together when we need to without amalgamating. The same logic applies to the possibility of having a full upper-tier government in Parry Sound District, which would inevitably result in a similar loss of independence for Whitestone. That said, we need to acknowledge that pressure exists within our District for both amalgamation and upper-tier government. I believe the best way we can reduce this pressure is to collaborate voluntarily with our municipal neighbours to address common issues, especially those that are beyond the resources of any one jurisdiction (e.g., solid waste disposal, lake levels and water quality). It would be foolish for Whitestone to pursue an isolationist policy and behave as if we are independent of our region.

10) Whitestone Support for Tamarack Centre

As a sitting Councillor, I can't get into the details of any litigation involving Whitestone and the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre Board. However, I do believe Whitestone should honour its financial commitment to this project, as I have consistently stated publicly. The official opening of the new facility, named Tamarack North Centre, is scheduled for this October 8th. A member of our Whitestone community, Dana Labrie, has already organized a swim team for the new centre: 7 Gens Swimming (facebook.com/7gensswimming). Tamarack North is an excellent aquatic facility, and much more. I remain convinced that it will prove to be a valuable asset to our region, including Whitestone, in the years to come. It will contribute to the health and wellness of our community, and will especially benefit our youth. Ask yourself the question: "Why shouldn't they have the same opportunity as their counterparts in southern Ontario to grow up learning to swim, to lifeguard, to teach swimming, and to compete in Aquatics?" This should not be an election issue in 2026. It's time to celebrate and move on!

11) Waste Management

Waste management is an excellent example of an issue that will likely need to be addressed on a regional basis. Whitestone is not the only West Parry Sound municipality facing end-of life for its landfill sites. There may well be an opportunity for a regional energy from waste facility in which we can all participate. In spite of Council's efforts over the past several years to encourage recycling, I still see a fair amount of recyclable material going into our landfill sites. I therefore support greater recycling enforcement. I also support our advocacy to the Ministry of the Environment to expand the materials that are recycled, and include commercial / institutional sources, in their program of producer responsibility.

12) Economic Development

Last Spring, as part of a university course in Sustainable Northern Ontario Economic Development, I wrote a paper in which I attempted to identify opportunities for diversification and expansion of Whitestone's economy in the context of Parry Sound District. As already mentioned, I believe such opportunities exist in the following key areas: Agriculture and food; Forestry and forest products; Eco-tourism; Attainable housing; Energy efficiency; I will be releasing excerpts from that paper on my election website at gcomrie.ca shortly that will provide greater detail. One of my recommendations is that a Council-appointed task force engage with our existing businesses to better understand their challenges and opportunities, and see how we can assist them to grow and prosper.

13) Community Services

Recently, Whitestone's Recreation Committee (of which I am a member) released a needs survey to assess demand for various recreation programs within the community. The Committee is using the results of that survey to introduce and expand availability of several programs to accommodate the need of individuals and groups in various age groups. These include: Archery; Yoga and other fitness programs; Pickle Ball Ball hockey and T-ball; Cooking classes, and A food pantry. Our experience is that these programs help to improve health and wellness, and build relationships within the community.

14) Council Conduct

Whitestone ratepayers should expect the highest standard of conduct from members of Council. Both MMAH and AMO have identified incivility as a major problem affecting Ontario Municipalities. With the recent passage of Bill 9, the Government is taking steps to address this problem by implementing a uniform Code of Conduct and mandating training for Integrity Commissioners and Councillors, among other measures. I believe the single most important attribute for a Councillor is their ability and willingness to work collaboratively with their Council colleagues, Municipal staff, and community groups to put the

public interest ahead of their own self interest. In order to assess the extent to which Council conduct has been a problem in Whitestone, I would encourage voters to watch the video recordings of some past Council meetings on the Municipal website (at <https://www.whitestone.ca/p/council-agendas-and-minutes>) On the subject of attendance and participation, it has been my practice to attend in person as many Council meeting as possible. (You can count on the fingers of one hand the number of times I have not been physically present for an in-person meeting since I joined Whitestone Council in 2014.) I further believe that Councillors who are attending a meeting remotely should keep their cameras on at all times while speaking or voting, unless their internet bandwidth will not support it.

15) Future Growth and Boat Launch Access

I believe this question deals with the need for the parking and docking capacity at our access points to increase with growth in the number of residents and visitors using them to access our lakes and rivers. Our lake planning should establish these capacities, and Council should include any necessary expansion in its capital budgets. Whitestone already has several access points that are at or near capacity for parking and docking.

16) Public Input

I believe we should expand opportunities for public input and informal discussion on topics of general concern to the community. One way to do this could be to schedule time each month for a committee-of-the-whole session (preferably in the evening) that would not include any formal business decisions but would allow for broad discussion of needs and key policy elements on a specific topic. Consensus from these sessions would then be incorporated into a report for consideration at future Council business meetings.

17) Short-Term Rentals

I believe Whitestone needs an enforceable short term rental by-law to encourage high-quality, safe rental experiences and to deal with problematic rentals. It should incentivize respect for neighbours and the community at large on the part of both owners and renters. I say "incentivize" because I think there are things the Municipality can do to promote successful short-term rentals, which help their owners pay to maintain their properties, and thereby contribute indirectly to our economy. Instead as being perceived as red tape, our short-term rental program should be seen by participants as enhancing the rental experience for all concerned, and helping them to deliver a quality experience that will attract suitable renters, protect their properties,

JOE LAMB CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

1. Name, position, why you're running, and the legacy you'd like to leave.

My name is Joe Lamb and it's been an honour and a privilege to serve you on Whitestone Council for the last 19 years including the last four years as your deputy mayor. I am asking for your support to reelect me this time to be mayor of Whitestone. In terms of my background, I've been married to Cath for the last 56 years. We have two children and four wonderful grandchildren all who love Whitestone. I was the first seasonal resident to be elected to council. My permanent address is in Dunchurch while I continue to maintain a residence in Burlington. I live on beautiful Whitestone Lake. I've had an executive career in human resources up to the vice president level and I am a member and chair of several private boards of directors. I've been a member of nearly every committee of council at sometime, including currently the council representative on the library board and the thrift shop two gems in our community. I'm the chairperson of the McKellar /Whitestone planning board. I've played a lead role in recruiting senior management positions within the municipality and also a lead role in union and labour negotiations. I am

a fiscal conservative, who has fought to keep your tax rate one of the lowest in the area, I was a lead author and champion of the road grant protocol and I have played a visionary role in Dunchurch campus, including the waterfront Park, library renovation, and expansion and acquisition of properties around the community centre in Dunchurch. My campaign slogan is simple leadership matters. I hope to convince you this morning that I am the best leader for Whitestone going forward. I am a common sense, practical, results orientated person who listens. I've seen the last four years on council be far too divisive with excessively long meetings and less than adequate leadership in the top position. I assure you this won't happen under my leadership. Thank you for attending today and thank you to the organizers of this debate. I look forward to discussing the issues that face us in the next four years.

Question 2 - Concrete steps on lake water quality and wetland protection given algae blooms and development pressure.

I am in favour of increasing funding for water quality testing, and Benthic monitoring. Council and several responsible residents have conducted water testing on three of our main lakes for years. For the most part, our water quality is good however we need to continue monitoring our lakes to ensure this doesn't change. I am all for taking measures to identify and rectify poor septic systems, but I do not support a mandatory septic inspection for everyone in the community. I think there are better ways to find and deal with poor actors that I can't get into given I only have a minute. I have tried to work with the lake associations in terms of setback requirements for severances, flood levels on lake wahwashkesh and other issues. I think they would agree that I am approachable and I listen and I'm flexible when it comes to these issues. I am concerned about Shoreline derogation. our current official plan states that you can only clear an area of 25% of your property. I find this reasonable but the question becomes we need better enforcement.

Question 3 - Concerns with the Draft Official Plan: commercial/home-industry uses, waterfront density, shoreline-clearing protections.

In terms of Shoreline derogation, I spoke to it when I answered the previous question. In terms of commercial, and/or home industry uses I know there are concerns with respect to controls on waterfront properties. I want to state emphatically that I am against commercial and industrial uses in waterfront areas that would affect the lake quality. This would include industrial uses like welding, machine shops, and automotive repair. The same time we must recognize that home occupations and small businesses that do not affect the water quality should be allowed in all areas in my opinion. All these issues and concerns can be adequately addressed in the new official plan which will be finalized by the new council.

Question 4 - Would you support further public review of the Official Plan before significant waterfront policy changes are adopted?

The process of adopting a new official plan is far from complete. The new council will get to review the entire document before it is sent to the province for review. Even after comment from the province, it will come back to the municipality and council for further input from ratepayers and associations before it is finalized. So there's lots of time for further input, modifications, and changes to what is been proposed so far.

Question 5 - Environmental concerns and safety incidents at Black Lake and Clear Lake Road.

I am very much aware of the problems both at Clear Lake and Black Lake. I propose a common sense solution, particularly at Clear Lake where a number of our ratepayers reside right beside the bad behaviour of visitors. Both of these areas are of course on Crown land. In my opinion, we should be applying for

land use permits so that we can control the use and set reasonable rules. We also need to control the parking on Clearlake Road. This is easily accomplished through our parking bylaw. Both of my opponents voted this year to delegate to the provincial government for a provincial park at Black Lake. This was done without any community consultation and I therefore did not support it. We need immediate action in these areas, not some pie in the sky solution that will take decades to implement.

Question 6 - Criteria to fairly prioritize spending on roads, bridges, and public boat landings, including accessibility.

The municipality has spent an awful lot of time and money and energy the in the last few years developing asset management plans as required under provincial legislation. These plans speak to all our assets, including our roads, bridges, buildings, etc. As part of this plan, we have developed a five- year plan which is public that outlines when we should be making investments in all our assets. Each year at budget time staff bring forward the projects as per the plan for debate and finalization. I would also like to point out that the current council has doubled our reserves from around \$1 million to just over \$2 million in accordance with the asset management plan. With regards of public boat launches we have invested substantially in them during the last four years, and I have been in support of this. In terms of accessibility in my opinion, all our boat launches and all our facilities should be handicap accessible like the main Dock is in Dunchurch.

Question 7 - How will you identify, disclose, and manage potential conflicts of interest, particularly on planning and development matters?

Declaring a conflict of interest is ultimately up to the individual council member . I have always taken, and I've always advocated for an abundance of caution be taken by council members when it comes to this subject. We do have a code of conduct within the municipality for council members and also there is provincial legislation about conflict of interest. Any ratepayer can make a complaint under this legislation if they feel abuse has occurred. It is interesting to note that in January 2022 George Comrie was found guilty by our integrity commissioner after he declared a financial interest in a planning matter, and then participated in the discussion. He was formally reprimanded by council and asked to apologize. This type of behaviour should never be tolerated in our municipality when it comes to planning and development.

Question 8 - Would you support more complete public records of Council meetings, consistent application of policies, and clear standards for responding to residents?

In terms of more complete public records of council meetings, I guess I have a couple of comments. We could expand a little bit on what is in our records, but we are fortunate to have a complete audio video production of all our council meetings. They are posted on our website and can be accessed by anyone publicly. Of course, I support the consistent application of municipal policies. In terms of clear standards for responding to a residents concerns I think we need to develop a standard operating procedure to address this issue. In fact in my opinion, we need to develop standard operating procedures for a number of issues within our municipality. If elected mayor. I will try to see that this happens under a new council.

Question 9 - Position on potential amalgamation of Whitestone with Parry Sound or other West Parry Sound municipalities.

AMALGAMATION I am totally against amalgamation! It would take away our autonomy. It would result in higher taxes, fewer services and less capital investment in our community. In 2024 there was actually a Special Council meeting where a motion was put forward saying that Whitestone was against any form of amalgamation. All of council that were present except George Comrie voted in favour of this motion. George wanted to discuss shared services in the area. Every other council in the area, except Parry

Sound, passed similar motions because they saw such discussions as a slippery slope towards amalgamation. I simply ask you who would rather be fighting for you if amalgamation comes back on the table me or George Comrie or Brian Woods. I leave that up to you to decide.

Question 11 - Commitment on long-term waste-management needs — recycling enforcement, composting, landfill hours/capacity.

With respect of the landfill sites we've made some substantial progress during the last four years. We have improved our compaction methods and as a result have extended the life of both landfill sites. York Street has a remaining life of approximately 10 years while Aulds road is closer to 30 or 35 years. I think the community does a pretty good job of recycling however, I think we need to take more steps to ensure that recyclables are not put in the landfill, but instead are put in the appropriate bins. In terms of hours, I don't know whether people know this, but we have currently have some of the longest landfill hours in the area for communities our size. Having said that I believe we should continue to be open on weekends at both sites , but I do think that we should alternate when the landfill sites are open during the week. In terms of composting council has recently financially supported composting efforts by the Whitestone conservation association which I supported. I will continue to support efforts like this in the future.

Question 12 - Specific steps to attract investment and support existing local businesses in Whitestone.

The first thing I would do is engage with them and speak with them and get their input as to what their needs and expectations are from the community. I might point out that this not only includes local businesses, but also farms, and agricultural entities within the community. Based on these discussions, we could develop plans to help and assist as required . I would like to point out that I was the one that brought the motion to council that made the commercial industrial tax rate the same as the residential rate in Whitestone. This measure cost us very little, but is symbolic that Whitestone is open for business. We must also recognize that industrial commercial growth on a large scale basis is not very likely in Whitestone. What we need to do is support far more home occupations and businesses. I think future investment in our community will likely come from making Whitestone a destination to enjoy our natural beauty and rural appeal. What we don't need is a large scale industrial Park as George Comrie proposed in 2022 in the Lorimer Lake area against the advice of our planner.

Question 13 - Community services and supports to prioritize for residents of different ages and stages of life.

I only have a minute so I'm going to concentrate on two items our award-winning library and the recreation committee. I have been the proud council representative on the library board for the last eight years. We offer extensive programming for all ages and during this term of council we have expanded programming into Ardbeg and extended our hours of operation to meet the community needs. Also, during this term of council, we have increased the recreation budget by approximately 260% from \$10,000 to roughly \$36,000. The recreation committee offers all kinds of programming for all ages. The committee works very hard to deliver results for Whitestone. Finally, in terms of a programming outside of Whitestone we need to support and expand programming that comes from groups that we financially contribute to in Parry sound like the district social services, etc.

Question 14- Standards of professionalism and conduct expected of Council, and your commitment on attendance and participation

The answer is, we should expect the highest degree of professionalism from council members. One of the reasons that I'm running for mayor is because there's been too much divisiveness and conflict on council during the last four years. A great deal of this conflict is between George and one member of council.

George often violates our procedural bylaw by interrupting and not allowing council members to speak which suppresses discussion. Far too often I tend to be the arbitrator between these two council members and it has to stop and will stop under my leadership. When I chair council meetings, they tend to be shorter and less divisive. In terms of attendance my attendance is exemplary over the years. You could probably count on one hand how many council meetings I've missed in 18 years and my participation in person is over 90%. I have prided myself on my attendance in person in the community hall. I remind everyone, leadership matters!

Question 15 - How will you balance future growth and boat-launch access while protecting lake capacity and wildlife habitat?

Not exactly sure how to answer since there seems to be three or four different topics in here. I can tell you managing growth while protecting our environment and wildlife is not as hard as it may seem to be. In my opinion, you can accomplish both particularly if we follow the science and expert advice from people like our planners. As far as boat launch access, as I've mentioned earlier, we've invested substantially in all our boat launches over the last four years and we should continue to do so. We also need to remember that our lakes and landings are public. They're not private lakes. The public has every right to use the lakes as much as residents on the lakes.

Question 16 - How would you ensure residents and community organizations have meaningful opportunities to participate in major planning decisions?

The planning act outlines the people who are to be notified formally of planning issues. This notification is limited. It also doesn't take into account that 80% of our population is seasonal and many of them aren't even here during the winter months. We have tried as a municipality to inform Lake associations on major planning items. I think we need to ensure that this takes place. We need to recognize that simply putting things on our website is not sufficient as most ratepayers do not regularly visit our website or our social media pages. I think we can and should do better in terms of notification, even if it's informal and not required by legislation. Public input is never a bad thing.

Question 17 - Position on Whitestone's approach to regulating short-term rentals, and what changes would you make to enforcement?

It's a shame that the current council wasn't able to adequately address and pass a short-term rental bylaw. Having said that I think we need a bylaw that is fair and equitable to all parties. Short term rentals are part of our community whether we like it or not. People who rent their properties have in my opinion a right to do so and the vast majority do so in a responsible manner. A minority do it in an irresponsible manner. We need to identify them and take appropriate steps and measures to regulate them and bring them into compliance. I am also particularly concerned about some people who rent continuously all year and really should be classified as commercial entities. This in my opinion needs to be addressed in a bylaw.

JANICE BRAY CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION OF COUNCIL

My Priorities for the Next Term

I am dedicated to the Municipality of Whitestone and to the people who call Whitestone home. I have the time, experience, ability, and commitment to continue working on behalf of our Residents. My goal is to support responsible growth, thoughtful planning, strong communities, and a sustainable future while respecting the unique character that makes Whitestone such a special place to live.

Climate Resiliency and Environmental Stewardship

- Continue developing Whitestone's municipal climate change resiliency and emergency preparedness.
- Continue implementing the ICECAP Corporate Action Plan and advance the
- Community Action Plan through education, information, and community involvement.
- Strengthen recycling and waste diversion programs to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfill and extend its useful life.
- Continue responsible landfill management, including planning for future capacity and long-term waste management needs.
- Protect the health of our lakes, shorelines, forests, and green spaces through thoughtful and informed decision-making.

Thoughtful Planning and Responsible Development

- Planning and development will continue to be an important priority. Our Official Plan and zoning by-laws must be thoughtful, practical, and forward-looking. As we continue updating these important documents, we need to:
- Preserve the unique character of our communities, lakes, and natural areas.
- Support responsible growth while ensuring development is appropriate for our communities.
- Consider the long-term impact of development decisions on residents, infrastructure, roads, lakes, and the environment.
- Review municipal planning procedures to make them clear, consistent, and easy to follow.
- Develop clear checklists for complete applications so applicants know what is required and Council can review applications consistently.
- Continue updating municipal by-laws to reflect current needs, including short-term rentals, procurement, and other areas of municipal responsibility.
- Good planning means listening to residents, respecting what makes Whitestone special, and making thoughtful decisions today that will benefit our communities for generations.

Supporting Local Business

Our small businesses are an essential part of Whitestone. They provide important services, create local employment, support families, and contribute to the sense of community we value. I will continue to support an environment where local businesses can:

- Grow and invest with confidence.
- Navigate municipal processes more easily.
- Create local employment opportunities.
- Continue providing essential services to residents and visitors.
- Contribute to strong and vibrant communities.
- Protecting Our Lakes and Supporting Seasonal Residents

- Whitestone is home to beautiful lakes and a significant seasonal population. Seasonal residents are an important part of our community and make a valuable contribution to our local economy and way of life.

I will continue to listen to concerns about:

- Lake development and shoreline protection.
- Water quality.
- Responsible growth around our lakes.
- Protecting the natural environment for future generations.
- Decisions affecting our lakes and waterfront communities should consider both today's needs and the long-term health of these important resources.
- Community Safety and Better Roads

Community safety matters to everyone.

- I will continue working toward practical measures that improve safety, including:
- Exploring traffic-calming measures through our villages and on other municipal roads where appropriate.
- Working with residents to identify safety concerns.
- Continuing to address municipal infrastructure and road priorities responsibly.
- Working Together Regionally

I do not support amalgamation; however, Whitestone does not operate in isolation. Strong relationships with our West Parry Sound partners and neighbouring municipalities can help us address shared challenges and opportunities. I will support regional cooperation where it can provide practical benefits for our residents, strengthen services, and help Whitestone have a strong voice on issues that affect our broader region.

IAN CRAWFORD CANDIDATE FOR WHITESTONE COUNCIL

1. Name, position, why you're running, and the legacy you'd like to leave.

Ian Crawford — running for Whitestone Council. Nearly 50 years in Whitestone; split time here and Peterborough — this is home.

- **Career:** senior manager, Ontario government — water management planning, economic development & species at risk. Background in environmental science and economics.
- **Past President & Board Chair,** Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) — 550+ lake and road associations province-wide.
- **Why running:** rural economic development and cottaging are the backbone of Whitestone's economy — they need a council voice who understands both the environmental science and the economics.
- **Legacy:** a Whitestone where the lakes are healthier than we found them, where growth pays for itself instead of straining services, and where residents actually know what their council is doing and why.

Concrete steps on lake water quality and wetland protection given algae blooms and development pressure.

- Mandatory septic inspections and setbacks: support a re-inspection program tied to point-of-sale or a fixed schedule, not just complaint-driven.
- Water-quality testing / benthic monitoring: support dedicated funding — this is exactly the kind of shared cost that makes sense to partner with neighbouring municipalities and lake associations on.
- Shoreline protection: strengthen and actually enforce shoreline buffer/vegetation retention rules — policy on paper doesn't stop a blue-green algae bloom.
- Planning approvals linked to lake capacity — development shouldn't outpace what a lake can absorb.
- My FOCA role gives me direct access to province-wide best practices and funding programs other municipalities have used — I'd bring that here.

3. Concerns with the Draft Official Plan: commercial/home-industry uses, waterfront density, shoreline-clearing protections. Any home-industry or commercial use permission needs clear scale limits — rural character shouldn't be traded away lot by lot. Waterfront density: development has to be matched to lake health, septic capacity, and road access,— not approved parcel-by-parcel with no cumulative-impact lens. Shoreline-clearing: protections need real teeth — a policy that's easy to ignore is not a policy. If elected: push for a cumulative-impact review of waterfront development before further density is approved, not after.

4. Would you support further public review of the Official Plan before significant waterfront policy changes are adopted?

Yes — waterfront policy changes are exactly the kind of decision that should not be finalized without direct resident input. This is consistent with how I'd govern generally: Town Halls twice a year, plain-language updates, and genuine consultation before — not after — major decisions. Support extending comment periods and holding a dedicated public session specifically on waterfront provisions, not folding it into a general OP hearing.

5. Environmental concerns and safety incidents at Black Lake and Clear Lake Road.

I've been there on a long weekend, The current situation is an public health, safety and environmental nightmare and it unacceptable and needs to be taken seriously before another tragic incident. I would gather the facts and evidence from residents and staff before proposing a fix — I don't want to speculate publicly without the full record in front of me. But my approach would lean heavily on my experience and connections in the provincia government. Whitestone can and should create “No-Parking” zones on Clear Lake Road and Wagon Trail road And it must be enforced especially on long weekends. I would prepare briefing material and set up meetings to present to my former colleagues at MNR with a clear path to resolving the issue including: No overnight camping on Crown Land on long weekends on Black Lake and a defined area; Active enforcement No motorized access to Wahwashkesh-Naiscote Conservation Reserve accept for local land owners; An alternative would be for Whitestone to seek a Land Use Permit for the area and manage it. I would take a bottom up / top down approach. Starting with the bureaucrats and then escalating to the Minister and media. General approach: road and lake safety issues need to be logged, tracked, and reported back on— not left to informal complaints that go nowhere.

6. Criteria to fairly prioritize spending on roads, bridges, and public boat landings, including accessibility.

- Safety first: structural/safety-critical repairs (bridges, washed-out roads) take priority over aesthetic or convenience upgrades. Usage and access: how many residents/properties depend on it, including year-round vs. seasonal access.
- Equity: accessibility improvements at boat landings shouldn't be an afterthought — build them into the regular capital plan, not a one-off grant chase. And they should be reviewed against the official plan and lake capacity guidelines
- Asset management data: decisions grounded in condition assessments and lifecycle cost, not the loudest request at a council meeting.

- Significantly increase funding through private road grants

7. How will you identify, disclose, and manage potential conflicts of interest, particularly on planning and development matters?

I'll be direct: as Past FOCA President, I have an interest in lake and shoreline policy — I'd declare that up front on any matter where it's relevant, every time, not just when asked. I will resign my current board membership on FOCA if elected. Follow the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act to the letter: declare, don't participate in discussion, don't vote. When in doubt, ask — get an integrity commissioner opinion before the meeting, not an explanation after. Decades in provincial government taught me: disclosure early is protective for residents and for me. Err on the side of over-disclosing.

8. Would you support more complete public records of Council meetings, consistent application of policies, and clear standards for responding to residents?

Yes to all three — this is close to the core of my own platform. More complete records: push for fuller minutes and, where feasible, posted recordings — residents shouldn't have to attend in person to know what happened. Consistent application of policy: the same rules should produce the same answer regardless of who's asking — that's basic fairness. Clear response standards: commit to a defined turnaround time for resident inquiries and a plain-language explanation when the answer is no. Accountably - response standards should be measured and monitored.

9. Position on potential amalgamation of Whitestone with Parry Sound or other West Parry Sound municipalities.

I do not support amalgamation. The efficiencies people want are real, but the better route is collaboration and partnerships with neighbouring municipalities — shared services, shared equipment, shared staff resources where it makes sense. Amalgamation risks losing local voice on exactly the issues that matter most here — shoreline policy, cottage-country planning, rural character. Shared services gets you the savings without giving up the seat at the table.

10. Position on continued financial support for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre.

Whitestone's contribution to this project is currently the subject of active litigation, and the details behind council's decisions on this file were discussed in-camera and remain confidential. It would be inappropriate for me, as a candidate, to comment on the substance of that dispute — I don't have access to the confidential record, and I don't think residents are well served by candidates speculating publicly on a matter that's before the courts. Any future funding commitment should be evaluated the same way I'd evaluate any major spend - facts, costs, usage data, resident input.

11. Commitment on long-term waste-management needs — recycling enforcement, composting, landfill hours/capacity.

Every few years I hear that our landfills have been given a miraculous extension on their capacity. I Support a real look at landfill capacity and hours now, not when it becomes an emergency —this is asset planning, same as roads and bridges. Open to a composting or food cycler program if the cost-benefit makes sense for a rural municipality our size — would want to see what nearby municipalities have done first rather than reinvent it.

12. Specific steps to attract investment and support existing local businesses in Whitestone.

Rural economic development and cottaging can go hand in hand here. Championed a provincial report on the economic impact of cottaging — cottage-country spending is a real, measurable driver of the local

economy and needs to be treated as core business, not a side benefit. \$43,000/year - 600 local direct jobs. Support existing businesses first: reduce red tape and turnaround time on permits and approvals before chasing new investment. Market Whitestone's genuine advantages — lakes, access, quality of life — to the kind of small business and seasonal economy that actually fits a rural municipality.

13. Community services and supports to prioritize for residents of different ages and stages of life.

Rural municipalities often underserve both ends of the age spectrum — young families and seniors aging in place. Support services that let seniors stay in their homes and community longer — transportation, home-support connections, accessible public spaces. For families: reliable connectivity, continued after school programs, recreation programming, and support for the volunteer organizations that actually deliver most community services here. My United Way Community Cabinet experience — matching real community need to available resources, not assuming one-size-fits-all.

14. Standards of professionalism and conduct expected of Council, and your commitment on attendance and participation.

Residents should expect civility, respect for process, and members who show up prepared. My commitment: attend meetings in person, come prepared, and treat every resident and fellow member with respect — even in disagreement. Publish a plain-language monthly newsletter and hold Town Halls twice a year, so attendance and participation are visible, not just claimed. A council member's job is to represent residents, not perform for an audience — that's the standard I'll hold myself to.

15. How will you balance future growth and boat-launch access while protecting lake capacity and wildlife habitat?

Growth and access aren't automatically at odds with protection — but they have to be planned together, not traded off after the fact. Boat-launch expansion should come with a capacity assessment — what can the lake actually absorb in traffic and shoreline impact. Wildlife habitat and species-at-risk considerations are not a box-ticking exercise — this was literally my provincial government portfolio, and I'd bring that lens here.

16. How would you ensure residents and community organizations have meaningful opportunities to participate in major planning decisions?

Consultation has to happen before a decision is effectively made, not as a formality afterward. Twice-yearly Town Halls specifically built for two-way feedback, not just announcements. Plain-language newsletter so residents can actually follow what's coming up on the planning agenda in time to weigh in. Work directly with lake associations and community groups already organized on the ground — don't make residents start from zero each time.

17. Position on Whitestone's approach to regulating short-term rentals, and what changes would you make to enforcement?

Whitestone is often mentioned as a municipality that got short term rental right. But then lacked enforcement to follow through. Short-term rentals need clear rules that protect neighbours' quality of life — noise, parking, septic capacity — without banning a legitimate part of the cottage-country economy. Enforcement only matters if it's consistent — a rule that's only enforced on complaint creates unfairness between neighbours. Support a registration/licensing approach so the municipality actually knows what's operating and can respond quickly to real problems.

JEANIE FUSCALDO CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL

Common sense actionable decisions that protect our lakes and natural environment Exploring practical ways to support agriculture Open to new municipal business models and opportunities by thinking creatively about how our municipality can operate generate Revenue support local businesses and make better use of our community assets. Increase resident participation. A simple goal protect what we have build on our strengths and make thoughtful decisions that benefit Whitestone residents for years to come

Answer 2

-Our waterways are interconnected Every decision we make about water affects the system both upstream and downstream well beyond municipal boundaries That has to guide everything we do Algae blooms are an issue that needs to be looked at They are caused by a variety of factors not just septic I want to see real movement on other major sources of phosphorus mosquito sprays grass fertilizers and the erosion of natural shorelines that once protect our waterways I support returning the Environmental Protection brackets E] zones to their historical boundaries before they were removed I do not support watering down shoreline protections simply because development pressure is high Proper setbacks matter Always looking at the full system not just one piece of it

Answer 3

Lots of concerns with Whitestone's draft official plan. Unfortunately legislation requires us to submit an official plan every 10 years meaning that's 2026. I would hope that whomever is elected makes a concerted effort to form a subcommittee thoroughly go through this train wreck of a draft and submit once a proper well considered plan is in place

Answer 4

I would support multiple town hall style meetings here and at the ardbeg Community Center to hear from anyone who wanted to share their perspective on anything. I 'm realistic that there always be those who agree with Council's direction and obviously those who object I'd hope future councils would be willing to listen to anyone and ultimately make decisions based on the data that's available and what's best for thee in community as a whole rather than any particular "group"

Answer 5

Many of the issues are a jurisdictional matter. I'd like to explore three options that are available between Whitestone and the Ministry. Can we obtain a lease /License of occupation, Land use permit, Management's arrangement for selective Crown land parcels in both areas for the purpose of improving public safety, Environmental Protection ,camping management We would need to do a cost benefit analysis along with conditions and approvals

Answer 6

My idea for a general process for fare application includes using our asset management plan to ensure we are consistent with all funds and decisions Maintain a publicly available inventory of all municipal roads bridges and boat landings with condition ratings and basic usage data Square projects against the weighted criteria above and publish the scoring Classify projects as "must do" ie: for safety or structural from projects that are a "should do" improvement projects Review the priority list annually with counsel and the public adjusting weights only with clear data and justification Recognizing that there are fiscal restraints Applying for grants and other funding opportunities that may exist

Answer 7

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act sets out ethical rules for municipal council and local board members. Disclose early and fully. Step aside when there's any real or perceived conflict and followed the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act to the letter. Understanding that in our small rural municipality there are associations and affiliations, Using the accepted phrase within the public sector to help people identify conflicts that are not a direct COI "Any scenario that does not involve a direct breach but where a reasonable person fully informed of the facts would think that an improper influence exists "

Answer 8

Since I've attended nearly all council meetings live for the last six years, I have a different view of both agendas and minutes. I have direct contact for what went into the decision making at council meetings. The public minutes exclude what I like to call the fluff and are presented as professionally as possible as they should be. What I would like to see happen is another overhaul of our website which I will say is better than it was previously but can be much clearer in terms of navigation and search criteria - I also think that there are opportunities for municipality to be more accessible an inline with AODA

Answer 9 – NO

-cooperation/ collaboration when it makes sense for whitestone residents

Answer 10

- Legal question it would be inappropriate to answer as it is a liability issue

Answer 11

Long term capacity real concern, Practical steps to extend landfill life. Staff has done improvements with fill and compaction which I've extended our time. Need to look at ways to have better recycling enforcement. Looking at composting is it pencils out financially. Even bag tags are on the table for me because I haven't heard a single logical argument against when you factor in the cost that is going to be required when our landfills convert to a transfer station it's not really a matter of if but when. We do not currently have the finances needed for this venture.

Answer 12

As a local resident and small business owner I've given a lot of thought to this and I've already reached out to existing local businesses and received a lot of different feedback from various industries -What I know for certain is this business attracts business I've reviewed the legislation. There is currently nothing that prevents any municipality from operating at an arm's length though independent business that feeds profits back into the municipality. There are both federal and provincial grants that we'd be able to access to help get these off the ground. I'm not a hands off type of person. Some of you may remember I organized the first annual Skill trade show at our high school which brought together students and local business owners who each had an opportunity to present what their trade and business had to offer and the benefits of working in their chosen field. Keep the rules clear and consistent so businesses know where they stand. Infrastructure decisions need to support the local and Economy instead of hindering it

Answer 13

we have a council who is up to the challenge of actually listening to people having honest conversations with people outside of their bubble we need a counsel who is willing to think outside the box and find solutions that meet everyone's needs, big task, but it is a job that we're asking people to elect us to do it's

not about each of us as individuals we represent the community, so we need the community to be involved in the entire decision making process

Answer 14

Every council member takes an oath as they are taking office. All adults It's about time there's a council who acts like it. I do think that can happen when there's a council who is putting the community first rather than trying to have the last word or is campaigning , I've had a front row seat, there have been times when I've been proud of the decisions that have happened at the table and other times when I am quite frankly embarrassed for council and by extension our municipality.

Answer 15

The external puzzle pieces are all there the Lake Capacity guide a multitude of provincial and federal regulations and laws As a community we only have control over the official plan and the bylaws our duty is to ensure that the Official Plan meets the goals of our municipal Mission statement to ensure Whitestone remains the perfect place to live work and play Growth has to respect lake capacity and habitat Public boat launches are important but we can't just keep adding pressure any new access needs proper studying should not come at the expense of the lakes themselves. I think there's a lot of work to do with regard to not only the 12 lake plans in the official draft – but all lakes and waterbodies in whitestone.

Answer 16

I am a full supportive meetings returning to bi weekly evening meetings and further I'd like to see atleast two meetings be held at the Ardbeg Community Center I'd like to see quarterly town hall style meetings where people can respectfully come and speak to council about everything.

Answer 17

STR – Not a fan of this current version. In my opinion Council went way overboard. I'd looked around at municipalities with many lakes , like here in Whitestone , I found Kawartha Lakes had a really good complete full circle system from their licenses and inspections, there is a guide that every host is responsible for supplying to their guests- which explains everything from do's and don'ts by laws and defines everything in a clear format that leaves no room for misinterpretation.

ROB SLYKHUIS CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL

1. Candidates, could you state your name, the position you are running for, why you've put your name on the ballot, and the legacy you'd like to leave behind if you are elected.

Good afternoon. I'm Rob Slykhuis, and this is my twenty-fifth year in Whitestone. Since retiring seven years ago, Mary Ellen and I have spent the majority of our time here and have made Whitestone our home. When you choose where you want to spend the rest of your life, you begin to look at your community differently. You start asking yourself: What more can I do? The Whitestone Directory lists more than 30 volunteer organizations. I'm proud to have become part of 3 of them. It has been suggested by some at Council that our volunteer organizations don't represent the majority of residents. I disagree. When people give their time and energy to make their community better, their voices matter. Last week, I was working at the Ardbeg Club and was struck by the fact that this community facility wouldn't even be here without Troy's vision and the dedication of volunteers like Norm, Muriel, Rhonda, Joan and so many others. Thursday, I was with the Cramadogs, helping Jim, Brian, Marty, Gary, and others collect empties from the dump to raise money to keep our trails functioning. And Friday, I was out on Wahwashkesh doing water testing with Ross, who also lends some of our equipment to Gary and Dennis so they can test Lorimer and Whitestone, as they have been doing for decades. For this meeting, we were asked what we

would like our legacy to be. Being remembered as a hardworking contributor to the community, like these people and so many others in Whitestone, would be a great legacy. Becoming a Councillor would be another step in that journey. I would like to leave this place a little better than I found it. Through my volunteer work, I've followed most Council meetings over the past several years and provided input on many issues. It has become clear to me that Council often struggles to work collaboratively, even on routine agenda items. I believe I can help change that. As a former CEO, I led businesses and managed diverse teams with different perspectives. My job wasn't to have all the answers. It was to bring people together, find common ground, and move forward toward shared goals. That's how I believe Council should function. It needs to work as a team if it is going to serve the people of Whitestone effectively. I also believe Council meetings should be held in person whenever possible. Better discussions happen when people are sitting around the same table, listening to one another, asking questions, and working through issues together. If I'm elected, I'll be there in person. Recently, there have been efforts to change development guidelines and environmental protections. During the Official Plan review, I spoke out against proposals to reduce lot sizes, lower floodplain standards, and allow home industries on our waterfront. I believe we can welcome thoughtful growth without sacrificing the qualities that made us want to live here in the first place. I'm no longer content to stand on the sidelines. That's why I'm running for Council.

2. What concrete steps will you take to protect lake water quality and wetland protection bylaws given recurring algae blooms and rising development pressure? (Candidates, please note that survey respondents highlighted the following as concerns: mandatory septic inspections and setback rules, supporting water-quality testing and benthic monitoring funding, and stronger shoreline protection) For decades, volunteers have been testing the water in many of our lakes and building a valuable record of water quality. I don't believe we should replace this successful volunteer network with an expensive system of paid professionals. If additional funding is available, I would rather see it invested in expanding the testing network, providing volunteers with more equipment and having the data properly analyzed so Council can use it to make informed decisions. We also need to focus on prevention. One of the most effective ways to protect water quality is to maintain natural shorelines and appropriate setbacks that reduce runoff into our lakes. Our Official Plan needs to reinforce these protections, and we need to ensure they are followed. I also believe we need to take a practical approach to septic systems. Mandatory inspections across the municipality could be costly and difficult to implement. Education should come first, but we should also explore whether inspections at the time of a property sale or at defined age intervals would be practical and effective.

3. With respect to Whitestone's Draft Official Plan do you have any concerns regarding commercial or home-industry uses, increased waterfront density / development, and shoreline-clearing protections and what would you do about those concerns if elected? I have already raised concerns about proposed changes to our Official Plan that would remove the words "except waterfront" from the provisions governing Home Industries, including auto body and machine shops. The argument made on Council was that someone could own a large acreage zoned waterfront and want to establish an industrial operation somewhere on the property. But the opposite could also happen: a property of only a couple of acres, directly on the lake, could potentially be used for a paint shop or similar business. I also disagreed with the minority vote at the October Official Plan meeting to reduce the minimum lot frontage from 100 metres to 90 metres simply to create additional lots. I believe Whitestone needs a fair, consistent and evidence-based capacity assessment for all of our lakes. That assessment should consider water quality, shoreline development, septic systems, lot size and frontage, and the cumulative impact of additional development.

4. Would you support further public review of the Official Plan before significant waterfront policy changes are adopted?

Yes, absolutely and this time I would welcome public input and not send out meeting announcements stating “No Input” as was done for a recent meeting. The current draft plan is flawed in a number of areas that have been pointed out by residents but not addressed. If there are no changes made, the current plan will be challenged at the Provincial level which shouldn’t need to happen.

5. How do you plan to address the environmental concerns and safety incidents at Black Lake and Clear Lake Road?

I have enjoyed ATVing around Black Lake for many years and used to view the “Mudders” as an interesting phenomenon. After being out there several times recently, including Labour Day weekend, I am no longer looking at it that way. With an estimated 800–1,000 campers in the area, residents along Clear Lake Road and people trying to access Bolger have faced intolerable conditions. During the Labour Day weekend, there was only one MNR officer dealing with the situation, and requests for OPP assistance were not responded to. This cannot continue. MNR needs to take responsibility for enforcement and ban overnight camping, but Whitestone Council also needs to use every avenue available to get action. That means working with our MPP, the provincial government, MNR and the OPP, while making sure residents and the media understand what is happening. I also believe the Municipality needs to take action within its own jurisdiction. We should investigate every legal option to restrict access to the camping area and enforce parking regulations on Clear Lake Road. This will not be solved overnight, but doing nothing is not an option.

6. What criteria should Whitestone use to fairly prioritize spending on roads, bridges and public boat landings, including accessibility improvements at municipal landings?

Lake Wahwashkesh represents a significant contribution to Whitestone generating \$738,000 in annual property tax revenue. For decades, lake residents took responsibility for much of the maintenance of our docks and landings, with the costs funded by the people who used them. When the Municipality took over that responsibility in 2024, we asked for \$6,000 to recognize the residual value of the last dock we had purchased for \$20,000. That request was denied. We were also told that if we did not transfer the dock for \$1, we might not have docks for a year or two. At the same time, new docks are being purchased and installed by the Municipality on other lakes. I believe Council needs to take a more balanced approach. Municipal resources should be allocated based on demonstrated need, not simply on where requests originate. We need to fairly evaluate the needs of residents across our municipality and prioritize the most urgent needs first. I would also like to see more direct feedback from residents about what improvements for roads, bridges and landings are actually needed and wanted for their areas.

7. How will you identify, disclose and manage potential conflicts of interest that may arise, particularly when Council is considering planning and development matters?

I believe there is a clear process for members of Council to disclose their affiliations, interests and property holdings, and I intend to follow that process fully. In a small community like Whitestone, almost everyone is involved in one community organization or another, and many residents own property. Community involvement should not be viewed as a problem, it is one of the strengths of our municipality. What matters is transparency and making sure potential conflicts are handled properly. I have already disclosed my involvement with three volunteer organizations, each of which has come before Council perhaps once in the past year. If an organization I am involved with has a matter before Council where I have a conflict of interest, I will recuse myself from the discussion and the vote. Likewise, in my role with those organizations, I will remove myself from any discussion or decision that relates to Council matters where my involvement could create a conflict. I believe residents have a right to know where their Councillors' interests and affiliations lie. I will be transparent about mine.

8. Would you support measures such as more complete public records of Council meetings, consistent application of municipal policies, and clear standards for responding to residents' concerns?

In business, we set standards for customer service, response times and overall performance, and then we measured them. I believe the same principle should apply to municipal government. As I have been talking to people throughout Whitestone, one message has come through consistently: people feel they are not getting adequate or timely responses to their questions and concerns. That needs to change. I would like to see clear service standards for responding to emails and phone calls, with reasonable response times that apply to both Council and municipal staff. And there needs to be accountability. If those standards aren't being met, residents should have a clear and straightforward way to raise a complaint and have it addressed. When someone takes the time to contact their Municipality, they deserve a response. It doesn't always have to be the answer they want—but they should know that their question was heard and when they can expect an answer.

9. What is your position on the potential amalgamation of Whitestone with Parry Sound or other West Parry Sound Municipalities?

My grandson plays hockey in Beeton, part of the amalgamated community of New Tecumseh where Council proposed demolishing the local arena and adding another ice pad in Alliston. That would have ended a 100-year-old hockey club in Beeton. Fortunately, strong public opposition stopped the proposal. With amalgamation, I worry that Whitestone could become the "Beeton poor cousin"—a smaller community competing for attention and resources while important decisions about our services, development and taxes are being made elsewhere. There are currently candidates in Parry Sound running on an amalgamation platform. We need to pay attention and understand what that could mean for Whitestone. I believe Whitestone should remain in control of its own future. We should decide where our tax dollars are spent.

10. What is your position on continued financial support for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre?

As I am aware the funding commitment will be determined in court. In the event the court decision relieves the municipality of any obligation any future funding would only be determined with public input and a full disclosure of the amounts.

11. What will you commit to doing to support the Municipality's long-term waste-management needs? Will you introduce stronger recycling enforcement and / or a composting program and address landfill hours/capacity? Margaret from the Whitestone Conservation Association recently hand-delivered a waste recycler to me, and I have to admit, this thing is pretty cool. Almost all of our kitchen waste goes into it, and it grinds it down into something similar to coffee grounds that can go right into the garden. We have already diverted a significant number of bags of garbage from the landfill, simply by using it in our own home. I think this is exactly the kind of practical environmental initiative that makes sense for Whitestone. I would support continuing modest municipal funding to offset the cost and make these recyclers affordable enough that every Whitestone household that wants one can have one. It keeps waste out of our landfill, puts something useful back into our gardens and gives residents a simple way to do their part.

12. What specific steps would you take to attract investment and support existing local businesses in Whitestone?

When I first came up here, Whitestone had five restaurants and threescores. More recently, we were down to one of each. If we want more choices for residents and visitors, we need to start by supporting

the businesses we have today. I would work with local businesses to create an asset map of what Whitestone already has, restaurants, marinas, outfitters, accommodations, shops and other services. We could then use a simple interactive mapping tool such as MapHub to make that information easily available to both residents and visitors. We should also look at how other communities are using provincial tourism programs to promote their communities and see what opportunities are available to Whitestone. Economic development doesn't always require big spending or complicated programs. Sometimes small, practical initiatives can make a real difference. Plowing the Twist parking lot for snowmobile parking was a good example of the Municipality recognizing an opportunity and helping local businesses attract visitors.

13. What community services and supports would you prioritize to meet the needs of Whitestone residents of different ages and stages of life?

Between the Library, Community Centre, Ardbeg Community Club, Whitestone Recreation Committee and others there are now activities happening almost every day in Whitestone, and many of them are geared toward seniors. That is a great thing, we should be proud of what our volunteers and community organizations have built. In Ardbeg, we have been successful in receiving grants through the Horizons program to expand recreation and training programs, and we have also been able to host the remote library and thanks to the recreation committee we now have yoga, although I haven't tried it yet. I would like to see the Municipality work with our volunteer organizations to identify programs that would appeal to young people and find the funding and volunteers to make them happen.

14. What standards of professionalism and conduct should Whitestone residents expect from members of Council, and what commitment will you make regarding attendance and participation at Council meetings?

First, as I have already said, I will attend Council meetings in person except in extraordinary circumstances. I would also like to see Council establish a clear minimum standard for in-person attendance that applies consistently to all members. But attendance is only part of the issue. I believe the level of professionalism on Council needs to improve. Personal attacks, deliberate antagonism and inappropriate exchanges, whether they happen in Council meetings or in emails, have no place in municipal government. In my business career, I managed large organizations and expected people to treat each other with professionalism and respect. When someone crossed that line, there were consequences. I would bring that same expectation to Council. The Chair has a responsibility to maintain order and ensure meetings remain respectful and productive. But accountability cannot stop at the Council table. Where appropriate, I would be prepared to raise formal complaints. We can disagree strongly on issues without making it personal. Council should be a place for healthy debate, collaboration and decisions, not personal attacks and political theatre.

Additional Candidate Platforms

We recognize the importance of providing voters with information about **all candidates**, including those who chose not participate in the All Candidates Meeting.

To help provide a more complete picture of the candidates running in the election, we have also included available platform information from candidates who did not attend. No publicly released platform could be found for Scott Nash.

Our goal is to give members and local taxpayers the opportunity to review each candidates priorities, positions, and plans before casting their vote.

Dear Fellow Residents,

I am stepping forward to ask for your support as a candidate for Whitestone Council. My family and I cherish this community, and I am deeply dedicated to strengthening our community foundation.

Whitestone is more than just a municipality; it is the land and water we call home. As your voice for Whitestone, Canada, I am committed to preserving our natural environment while ensuring our community's safety and resilience through supportive community preparedness.

A thriving community also requires a forward-thinking micro and macro economic outlook. I will work tirelessly toward fostering local business and sustainable growth so that Whitestone continues to prosper for future generations.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and questions as we work together for our future.

**RYAN
FLEMING**
FOR COUNCIL

VOTE RYAN FLEMING FOR WHITESTONE COUNCIL

**YOUR VOICE FOR
WHITESTONE, CANADA**
QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
RYANJRFLEMING@GMAIL.COM



VOTE RYAN FLEMING FOR WHITESTONE COUNCIL



FAMILY VALUES:
Strengthening our
community foundation.



**MICRO & MACRO
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:**
Fostering local business
and sustainable growth.



**SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS:**
Ensuring safety and
resilience.



**PROTECTING LAND &
WATER WE CALL
HOME:**
Preserving our natural
environment.

**YOUR VOICE FOR
WHITESTONE, CANADA.**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
ryanjrfleming@gmail.com

**RYAN
FLEMING**
FOR COUNCIL

Action speaks louder than words when it comes to community safety. As a volunteer firefighter and first responder, trained in Firefighting (1 and 2), Basic Life Support, Auto Ex., and Hazmat response, I have had the privilege of standing on the front lines to protect our neighbors in their most vulnerable moments. I know exactly what it means to support our emergency services and keep our community prepared and resilient.

But protecting our community is only one half of the equation; we also need to build for the future. A thriving town requires smart, forward-thinking governance. With an Associate's Degree in Business and Marketing from Niagara College, and professional experience as an SEO and SEM specialist, I understand the economic outlook required to foster local business and sustainable growth.

Furthermore, I am deeply passionate about data-driven decision-making. Through my studies in Data Science and my Google Data Analytics certifications, I have learned how to tackle complex problems systematically. In municipal government, it is easy to get bogged down by noise. My professional training has taught me how to ask the right questions.

I will bring this analytical rigor to the council table, ensuring our tax dollars and community planning are guided by hard facts and clear evidence, not guesswork.

Finally, effective public service requires discipline and resilience. I am passionate about health and fitness, and for the last 20 years, I have practiced martial arts, earning my Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. That journey has taught me the value of long-term commitment, humility, and the perseverance required to overcome difficult challenges. I will bring that exact same focus and fighting spirit to representing you.

Whether I am responding to a local emergency, analyzing data to foster economic growth, or working to protect the land and water we call home, my commitment to you is unwavering. I ask for your vote so we can build a stronger, safer, and smarter Whitestone together. Thank you.

About

- I have a wonderful family with two daughters and an amazing Wife.
- Vol. Firefighter/First Responder, BLS, Hazmat
- I am passionate about data based decision making and the wonderful world around it.
- * Google Data Analysis and Analytics Certified
- * SEO and SEM Specialist
- * Associate Degree in Marketing
- I am passionate about health and fitness, practicing Martial Arts over 20 years now.

Education

Niagara College
Associate's Degree, Business (3 year)

University of California, Davis
Sql for data science, Data analysis

Google Data Analytics Specialization
Data Analysis



BRIAN WOODS

"Growth Comes With Change"

My Name is Brian Woods, I am 40 years old. I am running for Council in Whitestone. I grew up in Hamilton and have been living in Whitestone full time for 7 years now. I live here with my fiancée Kathy and our 3 children, Kaedyn (10), Brisyn (3) and Konner (2).

In my professional life I am a general carpenter. I was a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the Bricklayers and Allied Craft Union. I have worked on many major construction sites in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors all over Ontario. I also do mold and asbestos air quality sampling and remediation. I have many years experience in commercial and residential property management and maintenance. I am currently employed with a local company, Knapton Studios where I perform general labour duties as well as Employee Health and Safety Representative.

I believe my professional experience would be beneficial ways at the council table. I am a hardworking, dedicated person with a keen eye for detail, that stays on task and sees projects through to completion.

Our slogan is, *Whitestone is a Perfect Place to Live, Work and Play* and I would like to work with fellow councillors **to ensure we live up to it**. This is a fantastic community with many positive attributes, however we do have many areas that need attention.

- Our waste facilities require attention, we need to look at a new plan of action to deal with waste management and accessibility of the facilities. Our roads maintenance and snow removal practices need to improve to provide safe ease of access to all residents.
- Staff turnover rate is something that has been an ongoing issue that needs to be rectified. Without proper staff in place, our community needs simply cannot be met. Properly managed employees are key to proper operation of the entire municipality. Docking/Parking and launch issues are an ever-increasing concern within our community. We need to examine what actions can be taken to improve these areas to service our taxpayers needs safely and effectively. We need to continue to support our emergency services, nursing station, library and various volunteer groups as well as promote local business within our community.
- Another area I feel needs attention is the promotion of unity within our community. There seems to be, what I refer to as, a "divisible wedge" in Whitestone. The idea of seasonal *versus* year-round residents is not an ideal that will encourage positive growth as a community.

I truly have a vested interest in seeing positive growth within our community. **If elected, I would listen and communicate the needs of all residents equally.** We live in a beautiful place and should consider ourselves blessed to have that opportunity.

I respectfully ask for your support on October 22, 2018.

Sincerely,

Brian Woods

GROWTH COMES WITH CHANGE

Brian Woods for Mayor: Building a Stronger Whitestone

Municipal elections happen every four years, but the decisions made during those four years can shape a community for decades.

Brian Woods believes Whitestone deserves leadership that looks beyond the next election and focuses on the long-term health, financial stability, and future of the entire municipality.

Real progress is built on strong foundations: responsible planning, practical decision-making, open communication, and a commitment to ensuring Whitestone remains a strong community for generations to come.

Grounded Leadership & Deep Local Roots

For over 15 years, Brian has lived full-time in Whitestone, raising his two sons, Brisyn and Konner, who attend Whitestone Lake Central School. His connection to this community isn't temporary—it's personal, rooted in the same day-to-day realities experienced by the people who live, work, raise families, retire, and spend their summers here.

Professionally, Brian's background as a general carpenter and property manager, along with extensive experience in Ontario's industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential construction sectors, gives him a practical understanding of municipal infrastructure.

When it comes to roads, facilities, maintenance, capital projects and municipal assets, Brian understands more than the numbers on a page. He understands what it takes to build, repair, maintain and plan for them properly — and the cost of failing to plan ahead.

Moving Beyond Short-Term Politics

Good municipal leadership shouldn't be about quick fixes or simply getting through the next four-year term. It should be about making responsible decisions today that put Whitestone in a stronger position tomorrow.

Brian believes that means moving beyond the divisions that have too often shaped local conversations:

- Seasonal vs. Year-Round Residents
- Waterfront vs. Back-Lot Property Owners
- Immediate Fixes vs. Long-Term Asset Planning

Whitestone is "The perfect place to live, work, and play"—and living up to that means recognizing that every ratepayer has a stake in the municipality's future.

Different residents may have different priorities, but responsible municipal government must listen to all of them and make decisions based on what's best for Whitestone as a whole.

The Choice: Four More Years or a Long-Term Vision

Brian Woods is committed to leadership built around three priorities:

Integrity, Accountability & Transparency

Residents deserve to understand how and why decisions are being made. Brian is committed to open communication, meaningful public engagement and ensuring ratepayers have access to clear information before major decisions are made — not simply after the fact.

Balanced Growth

Protecting Whitestone's natural environment and rural character must go hand-in-hand with responsible planning for the future. Brian supports thoughtful growth, sound financial planning and infrastructure investment that considers not only what Whitestone needs today, but what it will need 10, 20 and 30 years from now.

One Community Voice

Whether someone is part of a multi-generational Whitestone family, owns a back-lot property, lives on the waterfront, is raising a family here or spends summers in the municipality, their perspective matters. Brian believes good leadership means bringing those voices together, listening even when people disagree, and finding practical solutions that move the entire community forward.

Four years pass quickly, but the decisions made today will shape Whitestone for decades.

It's time to plan for the next election less — and the next generation more.

A vote for Brian Woods is a vote for practical experience, responsible planning and a stronger future for Whitestone.



BRIAN WOODS FOR MAYOR • GROWTH COMES WITH CHANGE

Your Voice Matters – Don't Forget to Vote!

If you're still reading, **thank you!** We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about our local candidates and the issues that matter to our community.

As of today, **32.6% of eligible voters have cast their ballots.** With three full days remaining before voting closes on Monday, October 26 at 8:00 PM, there's still time to make your voice heard!

If you haven't voted yet, we encourage you to take a few minutes this weekend or on Monday to cast your ballot. Municipal decisions have a direct impact on our lake and our community, and your participation helps ensure that local priorities are represented.

Your Lake. Your Community. Your Vote. Your Voice.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



Lake Wah Wash Kesh Conservation Association



wwkconservation

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

C O N S E R V A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N



