

NORFOLK COUNTY MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES WEIGH IN ON ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

On August 21st all candidates standing for positions of mayor and council in Norfolk County in the 2018 Municipal Election were provided with the below e-mail on behalf of the Norfolk Field Naturalists, a not-for-profit, charitable organization:

Dear Norfolk Council Candidate,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Norfolk Field Naturalists.

As citizens of this beautiful county we are very fortunate to have such an amazing diversity of land and natural habitats, including protected areas and abundant wildlife. We are home to a world biosphere reserve, 2 provincial parks, conservation lands, land trust properties and private woodlots. We boast older growth Carolinian forests, migratory bird stopovers, tallgrass prairies, cold water streams and kilometres of sandy shoreline.

We want to know where you stand on environmental issues in our County. We invite you to respond to the following question:

In updating the Norfolk Official Plan, consultants indicated that the citizens of Norfolk highly value the natural green spaces and rural atmosphere they live in. Over the last few years there have been several important issues discussed by Council that have a significant environmental component (for example, Silver Lake, the Long Point Causeway, Hastings Drive and roadside mowing delays to protect wildlife and natural habitat). If you are elected, what will your position be on protecting Norfolk's natural spaces, including the specific issues listed here?

Please send your answer to me by no later than Friday, August 31st. We will share your response with our membership, as well as with other conservation organizations in Norfolk. We will also share your responses with local print media and on social media. Our objective is to provide our Norfolk community with information to help make an informed vote on issues they hold dear.

Thank you in advance and good luck on October 22nd.

Yours in Nature, Bernie

Bernie Solymár, Past-President & Director of Environment, Norfolk Field Naturalists

The deadline for responses was August 31st. At that point we had received only 14 responses from a total of 36 candidates. A second deadline of September 7th was provided to the non-respondents. An additional 7 responded by that second deadline.

In total, 21 candidates responded, and 2 did not receive our questionnaire as their e-mail address was listed incorrectly on the Norfolk County website. Nineteen (19) candidates did not respond to our question.

For those citizens of Norfolk County who place value in our biodiversity, and the intrinsic and aesthetic beauty of our natural spaces we provide for you here the comments from those candidates that took the time to respond to our e-mail.

Note – some candidates provided us with background information and credentials (i.e. university degree) on themselves. We did not include those below.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact: Bernie Solymár, Director of Environment, Norfolk Field Naturalists at 519-427-9969 or solymar@nornet.on.ca

Mayor	
Kristal Chopp	<p>General Comments: I firmly believe that the rich natural resources, from our beautiful shoreline, valuable forests and wildlife habitat, great agricultural abundance and variety, to the presence of a world biosphere, are of the utmost importance for Norfolk County to protect and maintain. They are without question, our biggest assets.</p> <p>That said, while economic growth and the environment have historically been regarded as contradictory themes, I do not believe this to be true. We now live in an era where humanity is coming up with the most innovative solutions we have ever seen, to some of the most challenging problems we have ever encountered. When balancing the need for economic development and growth, with the protection of our natural environment, we must source and implement the very best of those solutions. Economic development and growth must be seen not as an end in and of itself, but rather as a means of achieving both social and environmental goals.</p> <p>I learned early on of the interrelationships between sustainable development, the environment, and human health. Although you have requested my position in regards to specific issues, at this stage, I hesitate to comment specifically without access to all of the information available. However, if elected Mayor, what I do commit to is working to ensure that all of Norfolk’s citizens have access to the environmental data and information held by our civil servants, ensuring public participation in environmental decision-making, and to working with local experts, including your organization, to find the most innovative ways to protect Norfolk County’s natural wonders, while encouraging sensible growth.</p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided. Causeway: No comments provided. Hastings/LP: No comments provided. Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
Russell Colebrook	<p>General Comments: As a candidate for mayor i support the current policies in place to protect Nofolk’s bio diversity. Overall i see progress and nature living side by side with minimal conflicts. Norfolk is big-room enough for all!</p> <p>Silver Lake: The Dam must be repaired for sure. I will work to see that completed</p> <p>Causeway: Long Point causeway&bridge must be fixed fast</p> <p>Hastings/LP: I don`t know enough on that issue to comment.</p> <p>Mowing: I support that with the exception of crossroads and intersections where line-of-sight is a safety issue.</p>

Charlie Luke	<p>General Comments: None</p> <p>Silver Lake: I have supported over the past several years, the repairs to Silver Lake. The repairs will ensure that silting does not go downstream into the harbour. A repaired dam will also allow the restoration of Silver Lake, and of course a major component of this would be the dredging. The dredging is subject to MOE approval and any dredging would have to be done under the supervision and approval of MOE and MNRF. A tremendous waterfront along the Silver Lake west side is planned for the public to enjoy this lake for future generations.</p> <p>Causeway: I have just finished reading the Environmental Assessment report for the Causeway Road reconstruction and Bridge replacement. I fully support this project and will support doing both the roadway and bridge in 2019, if possible. The report for the most part, states that minimum effects on the environment, be it fish, wildlife, or birds will take place. This is good news although the price tag, roughly \$12M is a bit scary!</p> <p>Hastings/LP: The recent OMB ruling as to land uses on Hastings has clearly determined that this area of endangered species and dynamic beach is not to be developed. There is much legal work to do still as private properties encroach on the municipal roadway and the municipal road encroaches on many private properties. This legal sorting out will no doubt take years and years. The important thing, however, is to make sure that this sensitive area is protected both on the lake and the marsh side.</p> <p>Mowing: We know there are areas along our rural roadsides that can be eliminated from roadside cutting, or at the very least, the cutting delayed. There are areas where milkweed should not be cut to assist with the monarch butterflies. I support this concept of selected areas not being cut. There are certain areas of roads and certain intersections that must be cut back for visibility to ensure safety of the public.</p>
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Ward 1	
John Henderson	No response to our e-mail
Tom Masschaele	No response to our e-mail
Doug McArthur	<p>General Comments: In response I would agree to continue to support the citizens of Norfolk County with the green spaces and rural atmosphere that we live in. Council should still continue to work with Long Point Regional Conservation Authority And the Ministry of Natural Resources concerning these issues. These are all issues that should have been looked at and fixed before now with minimal or no damage to natural habitats of the wildlife.</p> <p>Silver Lake: When you look at Silver Lake sediment build up, why wasn't this looked at before now, Misner Dam issue has taken 9 years and still no decision</p> <p>Causeway: Long Point Causeway, it is the only way in and out of Long Point should be fixed ASAP</p> <p>Hastings/LP: Hastings Drive, why did it have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board for a decision</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
Ted Mole	No response to our e-mail
John Peazel	No response to our e-mail

Michael Toth	<p>General Comments: While I appreciate the gravity of the question I feel it would be premature to state a hard line regarding my stance on the issue. While I have strong opinions on the subjects I feel that the rate payers in ward 1's input is required before I can argue these points as my will, is to be the will of the people. Environmental issues are prudent to sustain our existence and our lack of regard for it will surely be our demise as a civilization. Taking each point into consideration needs to be done in a cohesive manner with regard to the impact on the lives of those involved within the areas in question, the wildlife, the topography and foliage to name a few. I also believe that we have some incredible natural and historic beauty that needs to be highlighted to entice tourists into our pulchritudinous county to enable our downtown cores to flourish.</p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
Daniel Wagner	<p>General Comments: Green space in Norfolk is important, and we all need to do our part.</p> <p>Silver Lake: Silver lake and others need to be repaired and the funding with our partners is key.</p> <p>Causeway: I think we all want to speed up this project. But to make sure the services needed at the point are part of the plan</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: Roadside mowing needs to take in many factors, safety, erosion, and the environment</p>

Ward 2	
Matt Devos	E-mail address provided on Norfolk County website is incorrect.
Roger Geysens	<p>General Comments: As a Norfolk Councilor I always have the environment in the forefront. ...Another project I have been working on for the last two years is planting and spreading milkweed in the hope that we can help produce more Monarch Butterflies. These year we noticed five coming out of chrysalis, hopefully next year we will see a lot more. I'm trying to spread more milkweed seed along the fence rows and some open areas on the farm, hopefully they will take root and in time we may have more monarch butterflies.</p> <p><i>[Note: Roger stated that he is a board member of the Long Point Region C.A.]</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: The Long Point Causeway and the Bridge are being worked on, not sure when all this will get started.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: About grass cutting, that will be up to the new Council.</p>
Joe Murphy	<p>General Comments: We are quite blessed in Norfolk to have such a diverse and abundant amount natural spaces to explore and enjoy as citizen of Norfolk. My position on the environment is that farmland should remain in production, natural spaces should be protected or compensation must be provided, species at risk and any significant habitats should have an elevated level of protection and that development not negatively impact significant habitats. My key objectives on the environment would be to ensure clean water (both surface and groundwater),</p>

	<p>preservation of conservation lands and natural corridors, preservation of species at risk and their significant habitats and combating problematic invasive species.</p> <p>As for specific project, I would like to note that many of these discussions have been drawn out far too long. It should be understood that permits, letters of advise and mitigation planning are typically required by senior levels of government and the conservation authorities for any project within environmentally sensitive areas. I trust in our professional and able staff to ensure the appropriate agencies and authorities are notified and that proper permits and planning are in place for these projects. I will not provide board comments but if there are any more specific questions related to a specific project or two feel free to ask.</p> <p><i>[Note: Joe indicated that he sits on the board of the Norfolk Environmental Advisory Committee and is current chair].</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
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Ward 3	
Leslie Berta	No response to our e-mail
Mike Columbus	<p>General Comments: I do have much respect for the environment and both the environmental health and the economic health of the Norfolk Community.</p> <p><i>[Note: Mike added comments on several other environmental issues, which are copied here]</i></p> <p>Phragmites -This being one of Ontario's most Invasive species must be eradicated. The reed is devastating our wetlands and Lake Erie Shoreline effecting habitat and wildlife species. Wildlife, for example snakes and turtles in the vicinity of Long Point Causeway can not even move to survive within the phragmites growth.</p> <p>Gypsy Moth - County and LPRCA , NCC, Ontario Gov. Lands And perhaps private land owned must plan on spray program in the near future or woodlots will be devastated creating economic loss and environmental loss.</p> <p>Ash Borer - I support removal of dead tree wood as non removal will pose a safety and land owner liability issue.</p> <p><i>[NOTE: Mike indicates that he is on the board of the Long Point Region C.A and is current chair].</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: I have in the past supported rebuilding of the Misner dam as this man made structure has been in place for decades. Removal of same would silt the down stream in significantly creating hazards. As far as allowing fish up stream they would be blocked by the Ivy Dam.</p> <p>Causeway: I have supported wildlife passages from day one. Also I do support reconstruction of the causeway hopefully with pedestrian bike path.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: I am of the belief that empty lot property owners on Hastings deserve the right to have limited enjoyment of their property. By that I mean they should be able to have day use enjoyment. If Hastings cottage owners can have full time use why can't others have enjoyment if they pay property taxes. I realize that the OMB decision sees things differently at least till the courts rule differently.</p> <p>Mowing: I support road side tall grass and weed cutting especially in the areas of driveway entrances and intersections. It is all about safety. One fatality is a huge</p>

	price to pay just to save a few milk weeds. I would support the County locating grassy owned property and planting milk weed as a conservation area to enhance the monarch butterfly habitat.
Albert Guiller	No response to our e-mail
Darryl Smart	No response to our e-mail
Tim Sullivan	No response to our e-mail

Ward 4	
Thomas Ferris	No response to our e-mail
Dean Morrison	No response to our e-mail
Chris Van Passen	General Comments: [Note: Chris stated his involvement with ALUS “would be the best description of my position on environmental issues in Norfolk County] Silver Lake: No comments provided. Causeway: No comments provided. Hastings/LP: No comments provided. Mowing: No comments provided.

Ward 5	
Peter Black	General Comments: My Political Philosophy is one of balancing the three pillars of Economy, Environment and Social Justice. Norfolk County Council Members have publically referred to me as a tree hugger. I took it as a compliment but was sure it wasn't meant that way. I practice to the best of my ability Environmental Stewardship every day and for our future. Protection of Norfolk County's natural environment is a priority for me. <i>[NOTE: Peter stated that he has been on the boards of the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Long Point Region C.A. , and Long Point World Biosphere Reserve]</i> Silver Lake: The political process from the beginning was not followed correctly. The correct county procedure is; when a concern arises Council asks staff for a report. Staff has the knowledge to review a situation in an unbiased manner and to collect all relevant information. This allows Council to be informed of the various options and armed with the knowledge to make a decision. For example a staff report may have offered Council the following options; 1: Do Nothing. ie. Council does not own the dam. 2: Repair the Dam. Done according to MNR guidelines which limits the water levels to a safe Level, far below the old level. 3: Decommission the Dam. Rehabilitating the area back to its original cold water stream and the area into a park setting with trails. This standard process never happened and [one] Councillor from the beginning moved to repair, side stepping the whole public process and ability to review various alternative options. With a recent report, the repair costs came in at double the original amount at over two million dollars. The majority of Council, including me, voted against spending that exorbitant amount of taxpayer money and now we look forward to that staff report that will finally give us the options to consider. This should include an Environmental Assessment that has never been performed. This is the responsible environmental way to go and I would support. It would provide all

	<p>the information required to make an informed decision and would consider concerns like sedimentation, pollutants in the sediment and all interested parties and not just one group. I will support the environmentally best way to remediate Silver Lake and what is in the best interest of all Norfolk Residents.</p> <p>Causeway: As a Norfolk County Councillor I have supported the installation of the various eco-passages along the Causeway. I also support reconstructing the road and bridge. This week I forwarded a copy of the recently completed Environmental Assessment of the Causeway and Bridge to various Environmental Groups in Norfolk.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: I have been the lone Councillor voice advocating for the protection of Hastings Drive in accordance with the County's own Official Plan, the Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada. The Mayor and I were of the same view but because of his position as the Chair could not take part in the debates leaving me alone to do battle with the other eight County Councillors taking the position of allowing development. I attended the OMB Hearings and fully support their ruling, which is now the Law. Hastings Drive is an environmentally sensitive area that requires protection and no new development. I have pursued, at Council, the need to enforce the OMB ruling, stringently. All Trailers are illegal now as they were before. All structures built in the last couple of years are illegal and must be removed. This includes fencing, wooden piles and small structures. It is a difficult task that now has the provincial judicial courts involved, as the intransigent abusers persist in breaking the law and ruining this fragile area. I will be looking for staff updates on how this process unfolds until the illegal activities have been stopped and removed.</p> <p>Mowing: When a Hastings Drive legal non conforming cottage owner brought their concern to my attention; that the County was cutting and ruining Monarch Butterfly milkweed habitat, I moved a motion in Council that delayed the fall road side cutting until the monarchs had completed their cycle of life. The next year I worked with Bernie from the NFN and Stuart from Bird Studies Canada to get Council to review their overall road side cutting policy. Council supported my motion but the staff recommended changes were disappointingly few and did not go far enough to address the concerns of road side mowing from an environmental perspective. I was the only Councillor that did not support the revised Road Side Cutting Policy because of its lack of environmental consideration. Unfortunately it was passed by the rest of Council.</p>
Doug Brunton	<p>General Comments: Many of the areas you have identified require a class environmental assessment prior to any work being started. Most recently we completed the class EA for the long point causeway and bridge. All of the above I do support and in most cases are required by the Province. If elected I will continue to support the policies of the county and conservation authority as it relates to environmental issues.</p> <p><i>[NOTE: Doug indicates that he is on the board of the Long Point Region C.A.]</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
Rick Dixon	No response to our e-mail
Doreen Oates	No response to our e-mail

<p>Ian Rabbitts</p>	<p>General Comments: I value our natural green spaces and appreciate the beauty of living in a rural atmosphere. Once elected to council, I will work to ensure our natural spaces and heritage is protected. I believe in promoting indigenous species of flora and fauna and in protecting our lands from invasive species. I would like to see a canopy of Carolinian forest extend from the lake inland to provide a natural corridor for the plants and animals we share our community with. I continue to believe that our environment can be protected and also benefit our economy. <i>[NOTE: Ian indicates that he has worked for the Long Point Region C.A. and volunteered with the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve]</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: I have read the consultant’s report and I am dismayed that our current council has adopted the only option the consultant’s report had caution against, inaction. Our environmental scientists and engineering advisors acknowledged that the cost of labour and materials would not decrease and the condition of the dam would not improve. Delaying this project was the least advisable option to proceed with. Earlier this year our current council failed to pass a resolution that would repair the Misner’s Dam.</p> <p>Of the other options left on the table are: to remove the structure, returning the area to a cold water stream. I believe this option has some hidden costs as silt trap(s) may be required to preserve areas downstream of the dam. This option is in my opinion the most <i>environmentally friendly</i> option.</p> <p>Replace the dam with a similar structure. Replace the dam with a comparable earthworks structure as opposed to a concrete one like we currently have failing us now. Each option here has its own costs, shelf-life, and environmental merits. Some of which involve restoring Silver Lake which <u>has</u> been accomplished <u>many</u> times in the past. I want to force the issue here. The costs of this project will only increase and environmental assessments do have expiration dates we have spent enough time, resources and money researching this issue. I will not work towards an outcome that will saddle future generations with debt or contribute to environmental degradation. Remediation will be a key component in each of the efforts we have to pursue. Once elected to council, I intend to use the information we have to either remove or replace the Misner’s Dam.</p> <p>Causeway: <i>Break for snakes</i>, I endorse our current practice of creating roads for wildlife. The causeway has been built into an environmental destination of choice and when I look left and right along this stretch of road I can see many groups that are worthy of council’s full support. I want to see the road maintained to a higher standard, which for me is a matter of public safety. This is a crucial access point which also provides access to some of our most cherished natural locations in Norfolk County.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: I would like to defer the issue of Hastings Drive to those who have more expertise in this area. As opinionated and informed as I am, I cannot speak with a great deal of certainty to the outcome here. I empathize with the property owners on Hastings Drive but value the opinions of opposing views whether they come from the Long Point Region Conservation Authority or the Ministry of Natural Resources. For as long as I have lived the lake has been attempting to retake this road and create an <i>inner bay</i>. A structure that we have built, Hastings Drive prevents this reclamation on behalf of Lake Erie from occurring. This is an area that is directly within several migratory bird paths and is habitat to several other <i>species at risk</i>. Hastings Drive is considered hazard land and there are very real concerns</p>
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	<p>here for human habitation. Again, I want to be clear that I empathize with the property owner. What concerns me though and a practice I do not support is the building of sea-walls, <i>lake-walls</i>, and similar structures by the property owners on Hastings Drive which effectively wash-out neighboring properties and the road if a comparable structure does not exist on the adjoining property. We need a local tribunal to sort this out before someone gets hurt or we lose a natural piece of our heritage forever.</p> <p>Mowing: I would not condone a policy which would delay mowing in the vicinity of a road sign or pedestrian walkway. It would be unethical and not safe to do so. Conversely, where appropriate, I would support the delay of mowing in areas that fall outside of the conditions highlighted above. We need to see road signs and we need to protect people who are walking in designated areas from ticks and other parasites. We also need to ensure that we are not engaging in <i>bushwhacking</i> nature or eliminating habitat and food chains of indigenous species. I believe that a balance and smartly worded by-law could affect this outcome.</p>
Ryan Taylor	<p>General Comments: I believe that working to protect the natural spaces around this incredible county is important. As a councillor I would certainly like to have input coming from the many eco and naturalist groups that are around Norfolk. Hearing concerns about the potential impacts of policy on natural spaces from individuals looking at the issues with a specific, focused lens will be a benefit to whomever hears them. Having an open line of communication between myself and organizations such as yours is something I would welcome.</p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: I do believe that the county should be increasing the total amount of mowing being done around parks and overgrown lots in urban areas. My statement was not directed towards roadside mowing. This mowing would be in an attempt to reduce tick havens in areas where children are at play, or there is heavy foot traffic.</p>

Ward 6	
Doug Long	No response to our e-mail
Amy Martin	<p>General Comments: In general, my view is that Norfolk’s natural spaces need to be protected. Our natural spaces are at the heart of Norfolk’s appeal to locals, visitors and newcomers to the area. We offer a unique lifestyle of healthy active living, lakeside and waterway adventure, beautiful agriculture and forest scenery, amazing fruits and vegetables, wineries and breweries, and a hometown welcoming community. We’ve really got it all here. Without our natural spaces as habitat for diverse species AND as places we love to walk in, paint, photograph and simply look at, we wouldn’t be the destination we can be.</p> <p>Silver Lake: Although I know many advocates for natural spaces would say that the responsible environmental action to take is to decommission Misner’s Dam, clean up Silver Lake bed and allow the Lynn River to flow naturally into Lake Erie. The majority of constituents responses are not in agreement with that. Port Dover residents and many other Norfolk County residents believe that repairs to the Dam are what is best moving forward because the County has made a public commitment to do so. This lake although different now, once served a purpose filled</p>

	<p>with nostalgic memories of swimming and other recreation that many Port Dover residents hold near and dear to their heart. As information provided in deputation, the threat of silt pouring over the dam and into the lake bed with the risk of cutting off water flow by the Port Dover Yacht Club is simply unacceptable. Any threat to the loss of recreational or commercial fishing in Port Dover is just not feasible and I cannot entertain it. Through the mismanagement of councils priorities, lack of collaborative efforts county wide and many tax dollar spent on confidential reporting we now find ourselves in the position much worse off than expected. At this point in time I will continue to collect information from Ward 6 (constituents) to hear their wants and needs on the future of Misner’s Dam and Silver Lake.</p> <p>Causeway: I am aware of the fine work the Long Point Causeway project has accomplished and how Long Point is recognized internationally for the improvement project to protect the turtles and other at-risk species that are killed by vehicles. Norfolk County and Long Point should be very proud of this! The Causeway cuts through unique wetland habitat. Due to the underground culverts, the road kill has decreased exponentially. With the UNESCO Biosphere right there, the Causeway is an incredible feat of concerned local cottagers and citizens coming together to make the area safe for its reptiles and still at attraction for locals and visitors to enjoy Long Point’s features and beaches. This area should continue to be preserved and additionally accessible to cyclists and runners with the potential addition of bike and running lanes. Foot traffic certainly does not kill at risk species as vehicles may. This would further draw tourism into Long Point to admire the hard work and accomplishments of the Causeway revitalization project. Keep up the great work Long Point!</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comment</p> <p>Mowing: Norfolk has a tradition of maintaining roadsides by mowing them. But if we take a different perspective, and notice the diversity of wild flowers that grow along our roadsides, it’s remarkable - our roadsides in bloom lend local character and identity to Norfolk - this beautiful destination especially in the spring, summer and fall months. If we mow too early, we miss this gorgeous palette of summer and fall flowers as folks from outside the county and locally drive around to wineries, beaches, events that make us a destination. Our beautiful roadsides are disappearing along with the bees, beetles, butterflies and birds inhabit roadsides. Plus our roadsides become vulnerable to invasive species. It all comes back to keeping Norfolk naturally beautiful so we attract both tourists and people looking for a healthy surprisingly enjoyable lifestyle here.</p>
<p>Jeff Miller</p>	<p>General Comments: I believe we should protect our old forest growth. Our Carolinian forest is a natural heritage site in Canada. It is our responsibility to ensure this valuable resource is protected and nurtured for future generations. We must continue and support the ALUS program within Norfolk Country. This allows protection and restoration of wetland habitats, allows for buffers to be planted along streams, and creates a pollinator habitat There should be a complete watershed study on the Lynn River and Black Creek. We must be aware of the Clean Water Act and ensure our water is safe. .</p> <p>Silver Lake: Norfolk Council has approved the repair of the dam. The next Council will revisit the awarding of the contract for the work. Remediation will occur in Silver Lake. The wetland will increase to the point of having a fishing component of a cold water stream. The return of the lake allows for an ecosystem that will</p>

	<p>provide a spot for migratory birds to rest. I would like to see this area used as an educational component for our young people studying eco-systems in Norfolk County.</p> <p>Causeway: The Long Point Causeway must allow enough room for the reptiles to move from one marsh to the other and then into the lake.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: Hastings Drive must be protected and allowed to return to its natural state.</p> <p>Mowing: Roadside cuttings should be delayed to protect wildlife and their natural habitat. Roadside cutting at corners are one exception due to safety issues.</p>
Rick Misner	<p>General Comments: I think council would have to listen to all the stakeholders before suggesting a course of action to follow, again allowing for conservation of the environment, landowners, and government agencies. Council's job is to do what is best for the county and it's people, not what is popular or makes the councillors look good to the press or on social media.</p> <p>Silver Lake: As I am only running in Ward 6, I can only comment directly on Silver Lake and there I think we need to find a balance between the environment, to protect some of the resident plants and wildlife but at the same time, trying to allow for the land owners adjacent to the lake, as well as other users of the lake and lastly, try to comply with a many Provincial and Federal Regulations as possible.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
Gary Muntz	E-mail address provided on Norfolk County website is incorrect.
Adam Veri	<p>General Comments: Generally speaking, I would support any initiatives that present an executable plan for not only protecting, but enhancing, green spaces and environmental assets in Norfolk County. I've made my list of first term priorities and goals public. Four of them touch on environmental issues to some degree. My goals were published in the Port Dover Maple Leaf on August 1, and I've posted them online.</p> <p><i>[NOTE: Adam provides parts of his platform including "Persuade council to purchase waterfront property for preservation and public access in Wards One, Four, and Six" and "Create a municipal cultural plan to guide culture's impact on economic prosperity, social equity, environmental responsibility, and cultural vitality". As the descriptions are lengthy and they do not directly address the question provided we have not included here]</i></p> <p>Silver Lake: I understand that there is a contingent that insists that decommissioning the dam is the environmentally responsible decision. I have had several conversations with a former MNR staff member who is also a Port Dover resident, and he has a different point of view. His perspective is that there are many species of turtles, snakes, birds, amphibians, insects, and plant life that will thrive in a restored Silver Lake. Since restoration is the prevailing preference of the majority of my community, I will pursue this option to the greatest extent I can.</p> <p>I've been in contact with councillors who voted against hiring a contractor to repair the dam, and one of them has provided me with information about how the LPRCA approaches dam repair. I'm hopeful that it is not too late to pursue a partnership with the LPRCA regarding Misner Dam.</p> <p>I also want to seriously investigate dredging options. To the best of my knowledge, no grants have been pursued and staff hasn't prepared a report on dredging costs,</p>

	<p>options, or potential partnerships with community organizations to help make dredging possible.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>
John Wells	<p>General Comments: Thanks to all those who worked so hard ,in the past,to protect and enlarge the natural beauty of our wonderful county. As an elected official it is our responsibility to protect our natural heritage and to add to our inventory for future generations to enjoy</p> <p>Silver Lake: No comments provided.</p> <p>Causeway: No comments provided.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: No comments provided.</p> <p>Mowing: No comments provided.</p>

Ward 7	
Kim Huffman	<p>General Comments: None</p> <p>Silver Lake: Silver Lake/Misner Dam...this has been an ongoing fiasco for 8 years. This needs to be resolved asap as it's time for Norfolk County to focus resources and time to other projects. Personally, I would like to see the dam repaired and Silver Lake "restored". However, I am not an Environmental expert and am more than interested and willing to hear from non-partisan groups.</p> <p>Causeway: I believe that with a change in management, the current situation regarding the Causeway will not be repeated and I am aware of the extreme importance of this structure being maintained and monitored 12 months of the year.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: ...again another ongoing issue that needs resolution. I am aware that there is a very vocal group of residents that in my opinion are looking out for their interests. The new council must have the fortitude to make a stand, enforce the rules and end this situation.</p> <p>Again, my personal opinion regarding trailers on any property should be forbidden. Long Point is a one in a million kind of place and we must do whatever we can to preserve it and protect it.</p> <p>Mowing: I support (strongly) delayed mowing. To protect specific species and crucial times that they are most vulnerable, Council must follow and adhere to the recommendations of expert advice.</p>
Jean Montgomery	<p>General Comments: We are so fortunate in Norfolk to enjoy the wonderful and diverse environment we call home. It is very important to preserve our natural setting with a well researched strategic plan for the future. Public input from all stakeholders is imperative.</p> <p>Silver Lake: It is unfortunate that the issue has been prolonged without any progress either way. Current Council has made recommendations and decisions along with the Ministry. These decisions need to be reviewed with public consultation from the entire County and interest groups to see a timely resolution enacted.</p> <p>Causeway: Long Point - a gem in our County! Must be preserved and accessible with continued maintenance considering environmental impact.</p> <p>Hastings/LP: OMB regulations must prevail.</p>

	<p>Mowing: Consider impact on ALL stakeholders. Natural spaces need to be preserved. Work together with the farm community realizing the impact roadside mowing will have on their land and operation.</p>
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