

How to Win Elections 101

Preamble: I think it appropriate to establish that Jim Whelan lost the 2014 election by just a little over 100 votes. As one will see from the following, it is a mark of achievement that he came so close.

Lesson #1: One has the President of Chandos Lake [approximately 1,000 cottagers] to become one's campaign manager who, in the lake's glossy magazine, endorses such candidate who is vying for the mayor's job. This makes it too easy for cottagers on the lake who do not want to take the time to weigh the issues to just blindly follow their leader. Next, in the lake's glossy magazine/newsletter one makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated stabs at the present council, particularly the one that accuses the council of lack of transparency [the new flavour of the month for political wannabies]. I challenged the above criticisms in the Apsley Voice prior to the last election. Furthermore, if one looks at the record of the new council's meetings, one will see that they are certainly not open and transparent as promised.

Lesson #2: Make promises you know (or should know) that you cannot keep. The following requires a little background to understand the situation. At the all candidates' meeting one promise was to support ["give respect"] to the approximately 150 cottagers on the West Eels Lake Road who took the previous council and the MNR to court to get them to provide winter maintenance in addition to seasonal maintenance already provided. They lost their case and it was unanimously rejected by the appeals court. As a result, the MNR would no longer provide maintenance to its road and the council's lawyers advised against getting involved again. When the pretender to the mayor's job indicated support for their cause, I stood up and challenged his position. After the meeting, I was approached by him and asked if I could spend an hour with him and his campaign manager to explain why council should not revisit the issue. I was never contacted and I can only assume that he did not really want to know the facts so that he could lead the West Eel's Lake people into thinking that he would support them in their quest. How many voters of the 150 cottages do you think voted for him? Just ask the West Eel's Lake people today what support they got from council. I am sure that today they feel betrayed.

Lesson 2 'Making promises' continued: Stoney Lake is the most populated lake in the region. It was fighting a deep-pocketed developer who had prepared a submission to council to develop the Fraser Wetlands. The candidates were invited to the lake to present their positions. Rick Woodcock made it clear to them that he would support their cause. Jim Whelan stated that it was his duty to review all applications and accept or reject them on their merits and not to reject them outright. This was an honest answer but not the one they wanted to hear. He knew that such an answer would seriously affect the election but he was not about to promise something that he could not guarantee.

Having talked to a Stoney Lake cottager that was involved in the fight, it is the general feeling that council did not live up to its promised support. The lake raised \$360,000 to support their cause and, in spite of all odds they won. They give no thanks to the 'support' from council.

Given all of the above, it is a tribute to Jim Whelan's past record that he came so close against such odds. We only hope that *the chickens come home to rest* in the upcoming election.

Al Quartermain, Anstruther LAKE

Editor's Notes: On the issue of West Eels Lake Road, a discussion of proposed actions were made to the Budget Committee and did not receive support to proceed. NK contacted the MNR and they expressed no interest in dealing with this issue again. A delegate representing this topic delivered a presentation to council but it did not receive enough support to allow the township to take further action on this issue. Apparently, since this issue went nowhere as a result of these initiatives, there was no need to pursue it further with anyone else.

On the issue of supporting Stoney Lake cottagers, the NK council was actively involved to deal with the Burleigh Bay appeal to the OMB. Also, council provided the full-time participation of their solicitor during the OMB Hearing who was directed to act in the best interest of the community.

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