

Letter to the Editor:

I started participating in this municipal election for a few different reasons. To start with, I was very mindful of how the 2014 election played out. Over time, I became concerned that our new mayor was very careful to maintain a facade of respect towards his opponents, while spreading misinformation about the previous council in the background. Also, I began to develop a sense that I was really, really tired of letting other people determine the outcome of events that I had a personal stake in. So I did something about it - I wrote some letters to the Apsley Voice, I registered as a third-party advertiser so I could legally run political advertising, and I started a Facebook group. I got to talk to a lot of people I hadn't met before, and for the most part, it's been a really good experience.

The one downside to it all has been the message I've had repeated to me several times - that myself and others were "tearing our town apart" by trying to hold council accountable for their actions over the past four years. We were told that we needed to be respectful, or use kind words, or only make positive comments - even towards our elected official whom I have criticized in past articles and advertisements. I can't use kind words for someone who has acted in ways that I have previously described and because I believe he supports a narrow set of special interests.



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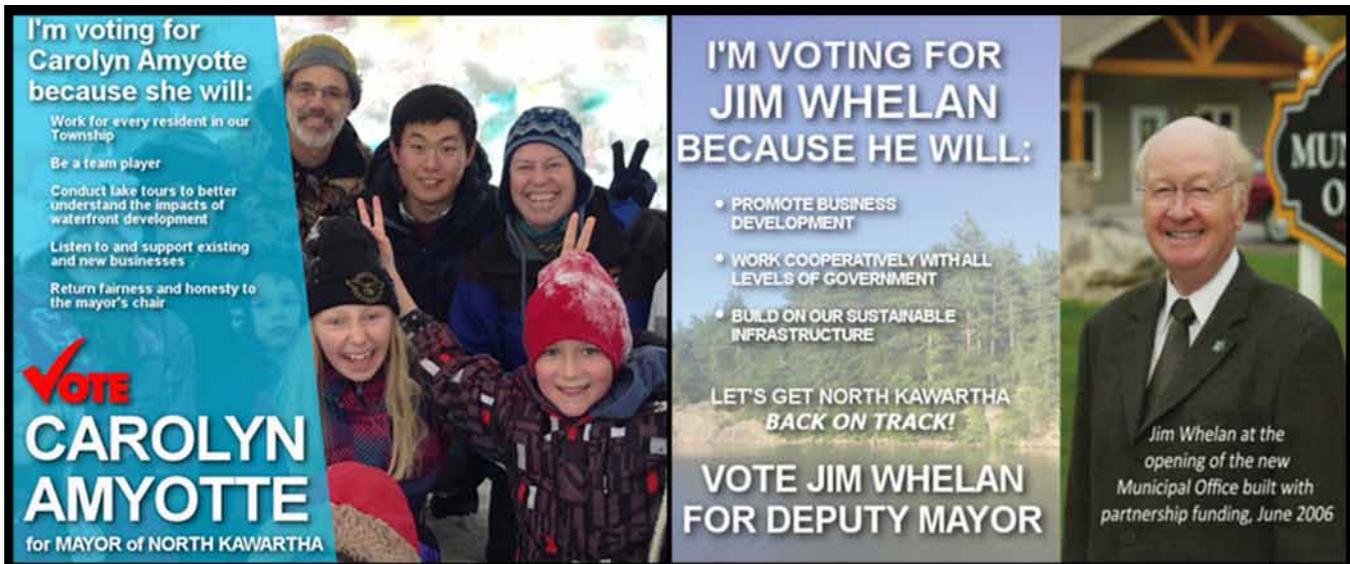
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I really hope that the era of "cottagers vs. locals" is finally coming to a close. If you wanted to see what the future of North Kawartha should look like, the summer gymnastics program at the NKCC was a perfect illustration. I went to see my daughter perform in the finale at the end of the season, and as the parents and kids were saying goodbye to each other at the end of the show, I kept hearing "see you next year!" over, and over, and over. I hadn't realized until then that almost all the kids that sign up for the summer were the kids and grandkids of our so-called "seasonal residents"! They use the community centre in town, they sign up for programs, their kids have summer jobs with our local businesses, my daughter is friends with a bunch of them now... to me, and a lot of others, they're just "residents" now. We're all part of the same community, but we need leaders who can see ways to make the links between us all stronger, and who have a history of bridging our differences.

Mark Wright



I'm voting for Carolyn Amyotte because she will:

- Work for every resident in our Township
- Be a team player
- Conduct lake tours to better understand the impacts of waterfront development
- Listen to and support existing and new businesses
- Return fairness and honesty to the mayor's chair

VOTE CAROLYN AMYOTTE
for MAYOR of NORTH KAWARTHA

I'M VOTING FOR JIM WHELAN BECAUSE HE WILL:

- PROMOTE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
- BUILD ON OUR SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

LET'S GET NORTH KAWARTHA BACK ON TRACK!

VOTE JIM WHELAN FOR DEPUTY MAYOR

Jim Whelan at the opening of the new Municipal Office built with partnership funding, June 2006

NORTH KAWARTHA - YOU DON'T NEED A COMPUTER TO VOTE!

A Voter Help Centre will be available at the North Kawartha Township Office with internet and telephone access for electors that do not have access to these connections.

North Kawartha election staff will be pleased to assist you. Contact Connie Parent, Clerk/ Election Returning Officer at the Township Office if you have any questions about how to vote.

Mark Wright, Registered Third Party Advertiser wright@explornet.ca