

Subject: 21014 Highlands East Municipal Election
From: steve cosentino <stevecos@hotmail.ca>
Date: 10/2/2014 11:11 PM
BCC:

Dear Fellow Cottager,

My name is Steve Cosentino,

My cottage (a year round home really) is on Little Glamor Lake, I am also a Director at Large on The Little Glamor Lake Association. I also have a home in Whitby and I have a small hobby farm on The Madill Settlement Road just east of Big Glamor Lake. I am retired but because my wife has a year remaining before her retirement from her teaching job in Whitby we also maintain a residence there. That said, I am up at the lake every single week of the year and for very lengthy periods of time as well. I have owned my property there for over 25 years. I am running for the position of Reeve in Highlands East against Dave Burton. Despite all that I am being labelled by Mr. Burton as a "cottager" a "part time resident" and as an "outsider" and as such I do not qualify in his mind and in the minds of his supporters to run as reeve. I strongly disagree.

When I saw that nobody was going to run against Mr. Burton I filed my nomination papers with only two days remaining before the deadline in order to avoid an acclamation and to give people a choice. Some people in the community up here think that I have got some "real nerve" for doing that. Well, they are right! If you are like me, you have been not too impressed with the way some things have been running in this municipality over the last four to five years. I have personally been on the receiving end of a building permit and got to experience the building department fiasco first hand. I have seen how that file was mishandled resulting in contractors not even wanting to do business in Highlands East. I watched as the municipality wrongfully dismissed the fire chief and then we ended up having the fire chief sue the municipality and two previous councillors successfully, including Mr. Burton, with us, the taxpayer picking up the legal bill for this ineptitude. Mr. Burton does not deserve an acclamation contrary to that which others here may believe.

I had a 30 year career in field operations with General Motors of Canada as a District Sales Manager and at times as a District Service Manager. I have called on virtually every dealership in Ontario from Toronto to Red Lake to Ottawa. I understand the concerns of independent business people and their customers, I know how to problem solve, I understand the issues in small town Ontario and I see both sides of the coin, that as a cottager and that of a year round resident. I understand how a business is supposed to be run and how personnel should be managed in a professional and respectful manner. Personnel issues should not become fodder for the media, it would never happen if proper Performance Improvement Processes were in place along with having transparent selection systems rather than those based on cronyism. I possess three university degrees, one of which is a Masters Degree in Business Administration. I know what is right and what is wrong in terms of how to manage an operation like Highlands East and understand that if this municipality is ever going to realize its full potential that a cultural change must take place and that change starts in the Reeve's chair.

Reaching out to fellow cottagers is the most difficult part of this campaign. Most cottagers are not really very engaged in the local political scene. Cottage Association websites are not well constructed or maintained and contact information is minimal or non-existent. As an Association executive member or as a member of FOCA or HCA I will leave it with you to decide as to whether or not you will pass my message along to your

membership. I have the voters list but two thirds of them are non residents which makes a mailing cost prohibitive.

That said, I ask for your support in the upcoming municipal election. You will receive your "mail in ballots" shortly as they are being mailed out sometime this week. They must be returned prior to October 17 or alternately deposited at the municipal office as per enclosed instructions. They will be unsealed on October 27th which is election day. I thank you for your support and invite you to visit my website.

www.stevecosentino.ca

Yours very truly

Steve Cosentino

www.stevecosentino.ca

<http://haliburtonecho.ca/?p=8068>

<http://www.daveburton.ca/>