

Candidate Survey: Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Wilderness Park

Thank you for participating in our survey for HRM Candidates in the 2020 municipal election! There is an urgent need for a coherent and collaborative effort by Regional Council and HRM staff to follow through on the commitment to establish Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes (BMBCL) Regional Wilderness Park. Thank you for responding, your answers may be released to the public.

Email address *

lloyd@Electlloyd.ca

District # & Candidate Name: *

District 3 Lloyd G. Jackson

1. Have you ever visited any part of the BMBCL area? *

☐

Yes

☒

No

☐

Other: _____

2. Halifax Regional Municipality is responsible for creating the BMBCL Regional Park as promised in the 2006 Regional Plan and in the updated plan 2014. If elected to HRM Council, will you commit to following through on the earlier HRM promise to create the BMBCL Regional Wilderness Park? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

3. a) HRM has acquired three blocks of land for the BMBCL in the last three years but in the absence of a strategy, land acquisition has been haphazard and guided by chance. If elected, will you ask staff and Council for a coherent land acquisition strategy? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

3. b) Please provide comments on your commitment.

Any acquisition should be conducted with a strategy and in the case of property a coherent land acquisition strategy is the only reasonable approach. Many things need to be considered,planned for and addressed before any acquisition is made.

4. a) As Councillor, will you support the continued purchase of lands around the perimeter of the provincial wilderness area to create the Regional Wilderness Park? *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

4. b) Over your four-year term, would you push to have BMCBL land acquisition included in the annual HRM budget? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

4. c) Please provide comments on how you would influence land acquisition.

COVID 19 has placed and will continue to place great pressure on HRM financial abilities/responsibilities. I will ensure the interests of the taxpayers in District 3 will be heard. Inclusion of BMCL land acquisition in the annual HRM budget could have many different looks. However planning and following an affordable plan is a reasonable path to follow.

5. a) Having a signature wilderness park within the urban core of our municipality has tremendous benefits including recreation, climate mitigation, health and wellness, and the economy. If elected, would you push for the creation of this park through a coordinated planning approach and the commitment of HRM staff resources to ensure that opportunities for land acquisition and major access points/facilities are not lost? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

5. b) As an elected Councillor, please comment on what policies or actions you would introduce or support to ensure the creation of this park. *

The creation of a committee that includes members of our community, local universities, federal and provincial staffs, local business leaders (Chamber of Commerce) and other organizations that can help with creation of a BMCBL land acquisition strategy that HRM tax payers can afford and support. Once this strategy is developed and taxpayers informed we can move to subsequent steps for creation of this park.

6. The HRM Regional Plan is currently undergoing another regular review and it is expected to be brought to Council for approval in 2021. Will you ensure that this updated Regional Plan includes policies that support the establishment of the BMBCL Regional Wilderness Park AND excludes policies that will compromise the future park? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

7. a) The public are not being engaged on new developments that impact the BMBCL Regional Wilderness Park. Staff reports to Council are too often discussed in-camera leaving the public in the dark. Will you commit to providing for effective and open stakeholder engagement and public information, and challenging the inappropriate reliance on in-camera Council meetings that exclude the public? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

7. b) Please comment on the public engagement you would support.

All HRM services must be provided in an open, transparent and informed fashion. Funding for any strategy in any amount must be provided with maximum support of taxpayers and within HRM ability to do so.

8. Would you like to join us for a guided hike to see this wilderness area firsthand and learn more about the Regional Wilderness Park? This could include a visit to those lands acquired by HRM. *

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other: _____

9. Would you be interested in viewing a Powerpoint presentation (via link) of a backgrounder on the BMBCL Regional Wilderness Park? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

10. (Optional) Please add any personal comments as related to the creation of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Wilderness Park. And, thank you for your participation!

New York has central park, Boston has green belts on both sides of the Harbour, BMBCL is something we can leave our next generations to enjoy and manage. Once it is gone it is gone forever. We must strive to find that balance of what we can afford and what we must preserve for future generations.

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