

9 Lessons from a By-Election

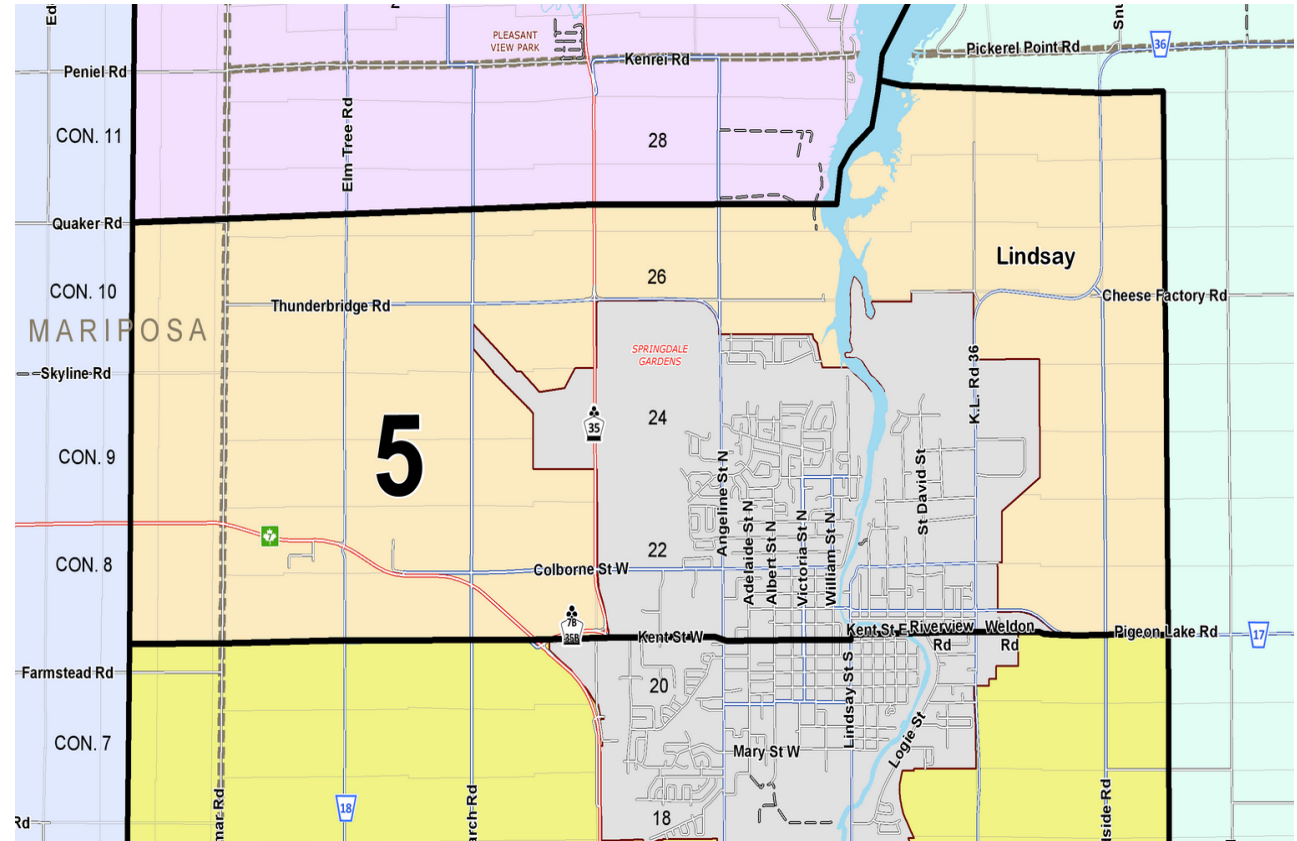
Kawartha Lakes – Ward 5

May 8, 2025

The By-Election

Kawartha Lakes Ward 5

- North End of Lindsay
- Smallest Geographic Ward
- Most Populous Ward (~11,500)
- Last KL By-Election was in 2009
- Councillor resigned suddenly on Nov 1, 2024
- Council adopted by-law to hold by-election Jan 14, 2025
 - Shrishma doesn't recommend 😊
- Budget: ~\$65,000



Lesson 1 - Procurement

- Get a by-election included in your General Election procurement
 - Or at least options for set pricing
- Double check your insurance requirements
 - Cyber Insurance is increasingly complex for vendors achieve for electronic voting
 - Work with your Legal to confirm risk liability
 - “Vendor’s total liability to the Owner under the present agreement and any annexes and/or modifications thereto shall not exceed at any time and for any reason the amount of \$150,000. This limitation of liability applies notwithstanding any indemnity clause provided for herein, and serves to restrict the indemnification rights and/or obligations of the parties hereto. The present clause applies to any and all causes of action against the Vendor, including but not limited to claims of action based upon civil responsibility, breach of contract, warranty, tort (or equivalent legal concept depending on jurisdiction) and also includes but is not limited to causes of negligence and/or force majeure. The only exclusion to the forgoing limitation of liability shall be claims arising from wilful misconduct, cyber breach or gross negligence, in which cases total liability shall not exceed the amount of insurance provided for this agreement. The present limitation of liability extends to not only the Vendor but also its Officers, Directors, Shareholders, Successors and Assigns”


Lesson 2 - The By-Election Calendar is Hard


The AMCTO Election Calendar is a lifesaver



Lesson 3 - Elections Ontario is your friend

- Regular Calls to determine timing of delivery of Voters' List
- Support in Social Media Posts to get voter registrations
- Social Media Toolkit
- New Subdivisions: EO got 'em!


 If you are inquiring about the federal election, contact [Elections Canada](#).

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Register for local and provincial elections, all in one place.

Confirm, update or add your information to the Register for provincial, municipal, district social services administration board and school board elections in Ontario.

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Election Announcements

Election day is June 26 Township of Rideau Lakes (Ward 3) by-election Confirm, update or add your information to the Register by April 21 Register now	Election day is June 16 City of Ottawa Councillor (Ward 20) by-election Confirm, update or add your information with your municipality Learn more
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Lesson 4 – Prep the Voters' List

- Use all the Voters' List cleansing tools in Voterview
- Remove deceased electors off the EO Portal (not just Voterview)
 - Helps EO for Provincial Elections too
 - 300+ deceased deleted – None returned back to list
- Do the Street Name Check "Extract of Official Streets for Review"
- Prepare for the residency questions for registrations
 - A ward councillor by-election means that a resident who owns multiple properties in multiple wards in your municipality means that they can only vote where they reside. A person who doesn't reside in your municipality who owns multiple properties in the municipality, may choose to 'move' voting rights to the ward (?)

Lesson 5 – Duplicate Street Name 'Fun'

- King Street (8), Queen Street (9), Bond Street, Elgin Street, Oak Street, Cedar Street, etc...
- Numbered Highways, Concessions, County Roads (Kawartha Lakes Roads), Fire Routes
- Elections Ontario has committed to an addressing review of Kawartha Lakes, and across Ontario
 - Electors showing up at right property (w/ duplicate name), wrong mailing address
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 - Properties missing on duplicate street names that we had to add
- What we saw on Municipal List – R.O. saw on HKLB Provincial List

Lesson 6 – Extra EO ‘Quirks’

- EO Voters’ List doesn’t have Ownership Status (but Voterview does)
 - Owner, Spouse, Tenant, Boarder
- EO never prompted the City regarding an Exceptions List
 - We never received one; Candidates had online portal access for live updates

Lesson 7 – Candidates Push Boundaries

- Triple check your endorsement signatures
 - MEA 89(h): furnishes false or misleading information to a person whom this Act authorizes to obtain information;
 - Compare previous election paperwork, if required.
 - Prepare your forms for rejection, if required.

REJECTED

Lesson 8 - Prepare for Emergency

- A Major Ice Storm is the worst case scenario for Electronic Voting
 - No cell signal (or slow at best)
 - No cable internet
 - No hydro
 - Election Workers smell like chainsaws 😊
- Prepare to extend voting period if major disruption occurs
 - Long voting period is a lifesaver
- Know what municipal facilities with voting assistance kiosks have generators (Library was offline 1 voting day, City Hall open all 10 days)
- Paper ballots could be an alternate, but do you have tabulators?

Lesson 9 – Work with Friends

- Port Hope
- Haldimand County
- St. Catharines
- Ottawa
- Cambridge
- AMCTO
- Don't do this alone:
 - We're here to help each other

