

North Bay Taxpayers' Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taxpayers' association enters fourth year vowing to step up efforts

The North Bay Taxpayers' Association is pledging to step up its campaign to corral municipal spending extravagance as the city's budget watchdog organization begins its fourth year of activity.

"The overwhelming response to our efforts from North Bay residents has encouraged us to increase our efforts to create a municipal government that lives within its means," says city councillor Mark King, who will formally step down as president at the association's annual general meeting being held at 7:00 pm on Nov. 17th at the Voyager Hotel on Delaware.

"Some city councillors and senior managers tried their hardest to discredit us," says King, "but they lost all credibility when local residents saw how fast \$4 million of their hard-earned tax dollars could be frittered away in the Memorial Gardens overspending fiasco.

"The results of the last municipal election clearly demonstrated the impact our association has had on holding city spending up to greater public scrutiny."

Tuesday's annual association meeting will see the introduction of nine directors, who will choose 6 within their number to fill the group's executive positions. The directors were acclaimed following a nomination process. They are James Brien, Elizabeth Fournier, Gary Gardiner, Catharine Hunter, Mark King, Miles Peters, Donald Rennick, Maurice Switzer and Cheryl Whitesell.

"Association members volunteer their own time and money to advocate for accountability and transparency in how city tax dollars are spent," says King. "Our goal is to see our municipal government manage other people's money as carefully as they should manage their own."

"For our association, that means heading into the upcoming city budget process assuming that a zero per cent tax increase is the objective of everyone who sits around the city council table."

The North Bay Taxpayers' Association held its first meeting in December, 2012 with a purpose to engage like-minded citizens of North Bay and advocate on their behalf for responsible municipal fiscal management.

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DIRECTORS - NORTH BAY TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

James E. Brien, B.A., B.Ed.

James is originally from Toronto and now lives in West Ferris. He came to North Bay in 1973 where he taught high school at Scollard Hall and St. Joseph-Scollard hall Catholic Secondary School for 35 years. He received his education at Malvern Collegiate and at Victoria University in the University of Toronto. He graduated in History and French and took his B.Ed. at the College of Teachers, in the University of Toronto. He is English/French bilingual and is currently studying German. Jim has been retired from teaching since 2008 but remains an active member of the Free Masons and Knights Templar. He enjoys the excitement of dirt biking and snowmobiling.

Elizabeth Fournier

Elizabeth is currently the Quality Assurance Manager for Schauenburg Industries Ltd. Prior to joining the management team at Schauenburg Elizabeth has held senior management positions with the McGuinty group of companies in North Bay including a construction company, an environmental assessment company, a management consulting company and was responsible for the public relations and environmental approval of the Adams Mine Landfill near Kirkland Lake. Elizabeth is a Certified Environmental Site Assessor. She is a former member of the Board of Directors for North Bay Hydro and former Chair of the Northeastern District Executive of the Electrical Distributors Association. In 1993 Elizabeth was presented with the Woman of Distinction Award by the North Bay and Area Business & Professional Womens' Club.

Gary Gardiner

Gary has lived and worked in North Bay for over 20 years. His work as a general contractor in the area specializes in larger scale renovation projects and custom built homes. Prior to moving to North Bay Gary worked in sports administration in the City of Ottawa. Gary's goal is to ensure that North Bay is affordable and, as a member of the North Bay Taxpayers' Association, will focus his efforts towards that goal.

Catharine Hunter

Catharine was born in North Bay and remained until leaving for University of Waterloo to study Kinesiology. She moved to British Columbia and eventually completed her teacher's certification following which she taught in northern B.C. for a number of years. Returning to North Bay in 1986 she taught for the Near North School Board for 25 years and is now enjoying retirement but continues to tutor students with learning difficulties. Other interests include bridge, gardening and a love of the outdoors. Her dream for North Bay is to see the city become a hub for ecotourism. As a member of the Taxpayer's Association, she will encourage efforts to ensure that North Bay remains a place where everyone can afford to live and enjoy.

Mark King

Mark was born and raised in North Bay, is the owner and President of H. Freeman & Co. of North Bay since 1998. Prior to business ownership Mark enjoyed a 23 year career in rail traffic control with CN Rail during which he was recognized for his work in centralizing rail freight traffic in the Great Lakes Region to the Toronto Core, a system that operates successfully to this day throughout Ontario from the Quebec border to the Manitoba border. A study of traffic systems throughout Canada were the building blocks for his supervision of work programs in the Great

Lakes Region and eventual responsibility for traffic control in North Eastern and Northwestern Ontario and the GTA, including GO Transit.

As a Principal of Markwood Estates, Mark gained extensive municipal planning and land use experience with the successful development and construction of a 32 lot subdivision on Trout Lake. He later joined the North Bay Planning Board and held an executive position with Almaguin Nipissing Travel Association (ANTA).

His interest in the community affairs began with membership in the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce where he served as a Director, as President and for a term as Past President. Chairing both the Tourism and Government Affairs Committees provided valuable insight into both the assets and challenges of North Bay and area.

Currently Chair of the North Bay Taxpayers Association Mark brings a wealth of relevant experience from a number of committees including his directorship of Discovery Routes and the Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation. This, together with his work with the Chamber, the North Bay Civic League and North Bay Hydro Services earned him the honour of Outstanding Volunteer, Province of Ontario 2003. Mark is currently a Municipal Councilor with the City of North Bay.

M.C. (Miles) Peters

Miles was born in Chatham, Ontario but moved to Balsam Creek at an early age and then moved to North Bay as a young man to pursue a career as a machinist at Longyear, Craig Bit and Rahn Metals. At the age of 19 he convinced a mining equipment manufacturer to employ him as an Industrial Sales Representative for Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. In his early twenties Miles incorporated Land and Mine Equipment Co. Ltd. and began his life long career. He has founded, developed and managed a number of industrial enterprises and manufacturing firms serving a variety of resource based industries, railways, defence enterprises, telecommunications, hospitality and retail. He is self educated and currently Vice-President of the North Bay Taxpayers' Association. His current ambition is to influence and assist in the economic development of established and new industrial manufacturers that will increase opportunity and employment levels for North Bay. He is a strong advocate for evaluating and structuring municipal conditions, logistics, and criteria to improve and enhance economic growth, sustainability and appeal by improving its competitive position.

Donald Rennick CPA, CA (1966),

Don is a chartered accountant involved in public accounting and private business until retiring in 2007. He continues to be engaged in public issues including municipal taxes and local hydro delivery rates. He has been a resident of North Bay since 1971 and cares deeply about his home.

Maurice Switzer

Maurice is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation at Rice Lake in Southern Ontario. He has been a working journalist for 48 years and has served as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians (2000-present) and Assembly of First Nations (1997-2000). He was the first Aboriginal publisher of a daily newspaper in Canada, holding that post at the Timmins Daily Press, The Sudbury Star, and the Winnipeg Free Press when it was a \$70-million annual business with over 700 full-time employees. Maurice has been a faculty member on the campuses of Canadore College in North Bay and Huntington University in Sudbury and in 2003 was inducted into the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame. He pays taxes on his home off Lakeshore Drive in the city of North Bay.

Cheryl Whitesell

Cheryl is currently the Financial Controller for a local manufacturing company supplying to the mining and forestry industries. She is an honours graduate of the Business Administration Accounting Co-op, three year program at Canadore College. In 2003 she joined Schauenburg Industries Ltd. and, in 2013, was promoted to Financial Controller and handles all financial information for the North Bay Branch reporting to the parent company in Germany. She brings to NBTA more than two decades of Management and Leadership experience plus her accounting skills from 7 years in both the private business sector and in public accounting.

Honourary Executive Members/Resource

Lorne Smallwood

Lorne is a financial services professional with over 20 years experience providing commercial banking services. He has overseen credit facilities for well over 500 entities, from small business to government agencies to junior corporate accounts with multi-million dollar borrowing limits.

As a commercial banking consultant in business finance Lorne is skilled in monitoring and control systems, real estate lending, key business management strategies, financial reporting and audit preparation for all industry sectors.

After more than 20 years living and working in North Bay he recently relocated to Ottawa.

Bill Tufts

Bill is an expert on pension reform and is co-author of best-seller, Pension Ponzi. He is the founder and Executive Director of Fair Pensions For All, an organization advocating pension reform in Canada.

Bill has appeared before the House of Commons and Senate National Finance Committee as an expert on both pensions and labour affairs. As a policy advisor on pension matters Bill has advised Members of Parliament, Provincial MPP's and MLA's as well as Municipal Councillors. He has worked with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, ADVOCIS, as well as written pension policy for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Bill appears regularly on television, and radio as a commentator on pension issues. Having been interviewed by major television and radio stations across Canada, he is the in-house pension expert for SunNews. His appearances have included Lang and O'Leary on CBC, National Affairs on CTV, and the City TV documentary Tough Choices with Gord Martineau, Labour Pains. His articles on pension issues have been included in all major Canadian newspapers and he comments regularly for the Canadian media.