

PROSPECT LAKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Saanich Candidate Questionnaire Responses

2026 Municipal By-election | Updated October 13, 2026

Candidate statements are reproduced from submissions received. Not all candidates responded. Inclusion does not constitute an endorsement.

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Mayoral candidates

Zac DeVries

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Answer:

Yes, I support restoring the health of all lakes, including prospect lake, to protect the environment and for the enjoyment of residents . Both Saanich and the Capital Regional District (CRD) should be involved with the all relevant community partners of each lake to support improving their health and use.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Answer:

Yes, we can do more and be more effective by working together. As your Mayor I will always support collaborative approaches like this. It will be important to include all stakeholders in this work.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Question:

Question:

Question:

Answer:

Yes, with deep gratitude for the generosity and legacy of the bequester. The plan would have to be in collaboration with all stakeholders.

Rishi Sharma

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Yes. Prospect Lake is an important environmental and recreational asset for all of Saanich, and I believe addressing Eurasian watermilfoil and protecting the long-term health of the lake should be a priority. The spread of this invasive species is concerning because of its potential impact on the lake's ecosystem, wildlife habitat and recreational uses such as swimming, paddling, boating and fishing. I support taking action based on the scientific work already undertaken and continuing to measure the results so that we know whether our actions are improving the health of the lake. I would also welcome the opportunity to visit Whitehead Park, see the problem firsthand and meet with PLPS representatives to learn more about the work already completed and the actions they are recommending.

2. Working with PLPS

Yes. I support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society. PLPS has invested considerable volunteer time, expertise and resources into monitoring Prospect Lake, gathering scientific evidence and developing lake-specific knowledge. I believe local government should work collaboratively with community organizations that have demonstrated expertise and a long-term commitment to protecting important public assets. If elected Mayor, I would welcome an early meeting with PLPS, Saanich staff and other appropriate partners to review the evidence, understand the regulatory requirements and establish a clear path forward for addressing Eurasian watermilfoil. This reflects how I believe local government should operate: listen to the people doing the work, examine the evidence, take action, measure the results and report back to the community.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

Yes. I support putting the Prospect Lake Fund to work. The money was set aside specifically to support the health of Prospect Lake. I believe we should honour that purpose and use the fund for targeted, evidence-based actions that protect and improve the lake, including addressing the threat posed by Eurasian watermilfoil. If elected, I would support working with PLPS, Saanich staff and appropriate partners to establish a clear plan for spending these dedicated funds, with defined actions, timelines and measurable outcomes. I don't believe money specifically set aside for the health of Prospect Lake should simply remain in a reserve indefinitely while an identified threat to the lake continues to spread. We should put the fund to work responsibly, follow the science and regulatory requirements, measure the results, and report back to the community on what has been accomplished. Candidate for Mayor of Saanich
<https://www.rishiformayor.com/>

Councillor candidates

Colette Baty

Question: Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized

Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich? Why or why not?

Response: Yes. Prospect Lake is an important natural and recreational asset, and the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil warrants a serious response. Saanich should use current monitoring to identify effective, environmentally responsible steps, then measure whether they are improving the lake's health.

2. Working with PLPS

Question: Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence,

monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: Yes. The Prospect Lake Preservation Society's local knowledge and monitoring should help shape Saanich's response. I would support a stronger working partnership with PLPS, alongside qualified staff and other relevant experts, to agree on practical actions and track their results.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

Question: As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake

Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: Yes. The fund was established to support the health of Prospect Lake. I would support a clear,

publicly accountable plan that identifies suitable actions, their costs, and measurable outcomes before funds are committed. That would put the money to work for its intended purpose while ensuring it is spent effectively. Thank you for the opportunity to complete the questionnaire. Colette Baty

Erin Booth

1. Yes. Our lakes are every bit as much community assets as our municipal buildings and infrastructure and protecting them matters. I used to compete recreationally in triathlons, and there is nothing better than a dip in a lake on a hot summer day. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many beautiful lakes in the CRD, and Prospect Lake is particularly lovely — and wonderfully warm!

2. Absolutely. Supporting evidence-based solutions is a big part of why I am running. If the Prospect Lake Preservation Society has developed this wealth of knowledge and research, Council should be willing to listen and use that expertise when considering how best to slow and reverse the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil. Partnering with people who know the lake and have already done the work makes good sense.

3. Ms. Girardau's donation of her lakefront property to Saanich was incredibly generous and thoughtful — a wonderful legacy for the community. I understand that the associated Prospect Lake Reserve Fund was established specifically to support the health of Prospect Lake.

From my research, Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive species where delaying action can allow it to spread further and make future control more difficult and expensive. Using this dedicated funding toward an evidence-based, long-term strategy for the health of Prospect Lake appears very consistent with the purpose of the reserve, and it is something I would support exploring if elected.

Susan Brice

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Yes. This issue is critical to the long-term health of Prospect Lake and I will strongly advocate

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: Yes absolutely.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: Yes absolutely.

that our professional staff escalate their work with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society to carry out this important work.

Judy Brownoff

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Yes, but there are other lakes that have this so Saanich Parks is developing a plan. These are some of the things that can be done. Potential management tools include manual removal, mechanical harvesting, suction dredging, rototilling, benthic mats, aquatic herbicide and Clean, Drain, Dry education. Management may also be strengthened by complementary land-based actions, such as reviewing and upgrading surrounding septic systems. Together, these efforts can help native aquatic plants recolonize, improve lake health, and support public access and recreational use.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Big YES. The more tools we find that can work, they might be used on other lakes suffering from EWM. We are doing a lot of work at Elk Beaver Lake.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: Was the fund established for something else, the weir? If the fund can be redirected, yes. My understanding Saanich Parks are going to bring to Council a plan to address EWM while working with partners.

Kathleen Burton

The short answer is YES to all three questions. Below please find a more detailed response to all three.

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Yes. Protecting the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich, and that includes addressing invasive Eurasian watermilfoil where it is confirmed and where management is supported by sound science. Saanich already recognizes invasive species as a significant threat to biodiversity and has an invasive-species management program that emphasizes prevention, active management, monitoring and partnerships. Prospect Lake is also an important recreational and ecological asset, with an active community of residents and organizations working on lake health and invasive-species reduction. I would want Council to take a science-based, evidence-driven approach: establish the extent of the infestation, understand the ecological impacts, identify the most effective treatment options, determine the costs, and work with the Prospect Lake community, CRD and other partners on a long-term management plan. I also think it is important that we look at the whole watershed, not just one invasive species. Saanich identifies nutrient levels, septic systems, runoff and other factors as important to Prospect Lake's health. Protecting the lake means addressing those underlying pressures while managing invasive species. So, yes: Prospect Lake's health should be a priority, and invasive Eurasian watermilfoil should be addressed as part of a comprehensive lake-health strategy.

2. Working with PLPS

I would support continuing and strengthening the partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society. Local organizations like yours bring important lake-specific knowledge, long-term monitoring and practical experience that should inform Saanich's decision-making. I believe the best results come when Council,

staff, community organizations, scientists and residents work together rather than working in silos. If elected, I would support a collaborative, evidence-based approach to EWM, including drawing on the PLPS's decades of monitoring and experience while ensuring decisions are informed by current scientific evidence, regulatory requirements, costs and measurable outcomes. For me, partnership means listening to the people who know the lake, respecting the science, and working together on practical solutions that protect Prospect Lake for the long term.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

Yes. If (when) elected, I would support establishing a clear, transparent plan for putting the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to work to improve the health of the lake. The \$200,000 was established specifically to support Prospect Lake, so I believe those funds should be used purposefully, based on sound science and measurable outcomes. That could include targeted action to address Eurasian watermilfoil, monitoring its effectiveness, and supporting other lake-health measures where the evidence shows they are needed. I would also want Saanich to work closely with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society and other knowledgeable partners in developing that plan. The community has decades of experience and lake-specific knowledge that should help inform how the funds are used. The goal should be simple: a clear plan, responsible use of the funds, measurable results and a healthier Prospect Lake for future generations.

Don Cameron

1, 2 & 3. Yes to all three questions. In response to your questions prospect Lake's health and that of Todd Creek and into Todd Inlet is crucial to the entire West Saanich Valley from Hartland Road to Butchart Gardens. I was in the neighborhood today driving Prospect Lake Road on the multitude of safety concerns. It sounds like your neck of the woods has been under served. Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your email

Mauricio Curbelo

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Yes, this has to be addressed.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: I am open to Saanich collaborating with PLPS and other stakeholder groups to explore potential solutions to the EWM issue. We must also consider that the lake involves overlapping jurisdictions, so we may have to bring more partners into the fold.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: If this money is available as stated, I am open to exploring its use for this purpose. Actions taken must be ecologically sound and legally compliant, guided by appropriate environmental and regulatory authorities.

Alli Deelstra

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Yes. I believe protecting Prospect Lake's health should be a priority for Saanich. Through my elected leadership roles with two province-wide fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation (as mentioned on my website), I have learned the importance of looking after habitat, listening to neighbours who know it well and using science to guide decisions.

I believe our parks and natural areas need funding to manage invasive species and protect healthy watersheds, wetlands and groundwater. That includes addressing problems already here, like Eurasian watermilfoil, and preventing new threats, including zebra and quagga mussels, from becoming established. Public education, boat and equipment cleaning, and early detection should be part of that work.

For Prospect Lake, I would support an approach that protects native habitat while allowing responsible recreational use. I would want to understand the costs, possible effects on other species and maintenance required, then monitor the results.

If Saanich is unable to achieve the intended results with its own resources, I would support Saanich to collaborate with additional volunteer stewardship and conservation organizations to help. Together, we could explore grant funding through the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), with an application that clearly establishes fish conservation and habitat management objectives and explains how managing Eurasian watermilfoil would support them. I mention this, as the grant application would need to meet HCTF's funding criteria. Another potential funder could be TD's Friends of the Environment Foundation.

My goal is to help keep the lake healthy for the wildlife that depends on it and the generations who will enjoy it after us. I believe we have a duty to ensure this.

2. Working with PLPS

Yes. I would support continuing and strengthening Saanich's partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society.

My experience with the my elected leadership positions as mentioned above has shown me the value of bringing together scientific expertise, local knowledge and people willing to do the work. Volunteer stewardship organizations give their time and attention to places they care deeply about. That contribution deserves meaningful municipal support.

I would like to see PLPS, municipal staff and qualified specialists and non-profits work together to review the evidence, choose practical actions and monitor the results. Clear responsibilities and appropriate funding would help turn that partnership into lasting improvements for Prospect Lake and its surrounding watershed.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

Yes. I would support a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund for targeted, science- and evidence-based actions to address Eurasian watermilfoil and improve the lake's health for birds, fish and other native species.

I would want to review the fund's terms of reference and consider whether they need updating to support that work, while respecting the original bequest and the fund's intended purpose.

It may also be worthwhile exploring a university partnership involving a doctoral researcher with expertise in freshwater ecology or invasive species, supported by their academic supervisor. Working with PLPS and municipal staff, they could help assess treatment options and establish meaningful measures of success so we can track whether our actions are improving the lake's health.

My experience with conservation and stewardship organizations would inform how I assess the plan. I would look for clear priorities, realistic costs, timelines and the monitoring and maintenance needed to sustain improvements.

I believe parks and natural areas need funding to manage invasive species and protect healthy watersheds, wetlands and groundwater. For this fund, I want to see a plan that puts those resources to work for Prospect Lake and shows us what they achieve.

Lorne DeLarge

Thank you to the Prospect Lake Preservation Society for providing candidates with the opportunity to share our vision for the health and stewardship of Prospect Lake. Protecting our natural environment is one of my core commitments as a candidate for Saanich Council. For more details on my overall platform and environmental commitments, please visit my website at <https://www.lornedelarge.ca/my-priorities> to see my commitments to the environment.

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not? Yes, addressing Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Prospect Lake must be a firm priority for Saanich. With EWM now covering over half the shoreline, failing to act threatens aquatic ecosystems, impairs water quality, and harms recreational access for the thousands of residents, park visitors, and Power To Be participants who rely on this public asset. Invasive species do not respect boundaries. Saanich must step up with the resources and multi-jurisdictional leadership needed to support community partners like the Prospect Lake Preservation Society—and this proactive approach must extend to our other vital regional ecosystems, including Elk and Beaver Lakes. I support taking action including funding to support our precious ecosystems.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Yes, absolutely. Saanich is fortunate to have grassroots groups whose members bring deep expertise and passionate stewardship to our local ecosystems. The Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has established an invaluable foundation through its scientific mapping, water quality monitoring, and community engagement. Partnering with established organizations like PLPS—as well as groups like the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary and PKOLS-Mount Douglas Conservancy, whose work on Douglas Creek demonstrates the vital impact of local stewardship is essential. If elected, I will strongly advocate for Saanich to strengthen its formal partnerships with these dedicated community organizations. By combining municipal support and resources with the evidence-based solutions and local knowledge of groups on the ground, we can effectively safeguard our watersheds, restore degraded ecosystems, and preserve our natural environment for future generations.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Yes, I fully support creating a clear, targeted plan to put the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to work. Environmental protection is one of my five key priorities for Saanich. With our municipality bringing in over half a billion dollars in annual revenue, we must properly prioritize environmental stewardship. If elected, I will advocate for deploying these funds toward immediate, evidence-based interventions guided by the data and mapping provided by the Prospect Lake Preservation Society. Using this dedicated resource for concrete, measurable solutions will ensure we halt the spread of EWM, protect water quality, and deliver real ecological results for Prospect Lake.

Nancy Di Castri

1. Do you believe addressing the EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich? Why or why not? Yes I do. Prospect Lake is not just a residential lake, but an important public and environmental asset that is widely used to recreate by the public. Restoring the lake is going to require a long term, coordinated response, so I don't believe that Prospect Lake residents should be left to shoulder the responsibility of doing this on their own.
2. If elected, do you support continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake? Yes. That might look like a shared long term management plan, that would require a consistent contact person at Saanich, help with any regulatory requirements and appropriate funding. I am aware that you have a qualified person who has done testing, monitoring and has researched the herbicide ProcettaCOR FX as a possible treatment, so you have already made significant progress towards a solution. As removing the milfoil is not a one time solution, a partnership with Saanich would serve to continue to maintain the health of the lake on an ongoing basis.
3. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health. Yes. As Saanich has already pledged \$200,000 toward the health and maintenance of Prospect Lake, it would seem that the time to be implementing a solution would be sooner, rather than later. If I was elected, I would support moving forward in a timely manner, and we could build on your work, rather than duplicate it. I do not like to create unnecessary delays, or spend limited funds repeating work that has already been completed. As I believe you have identified the regulatory steps required and determined which evidence based actions can proceed, then it would be easier to identify a clear plan.

Hollis Hodson

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response:

Yes. Addressing Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and protecting the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich. As Prospect Lake is a public and community asset that supports wildlife habitat, municipal parkland, recreation and community programming, protecting its health is an important part of responsible environmental stewardship. As President of the Carey Area Residents Association and a member of the Colquitz Coalition, I am familiar with invasive aquatic species issues through the Beaver and Elk Lake Environmental Stewards (BEES) and their efforts to address EWM at their lakes. EWM has spread significantly in Prospect Lake and threatens ecological health while interfering with recreational activities residents and the broader community value. The longer it spreads, the more challenging and potentially costly management becomes. Saanich should work collaboratively with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS), the Capital Regional District (CRD), First Nations, the Province, qualified experts and other relevant partners to build on the monitoring and scientific work already underway and establish a practical, long-term management approach. If elected, I would support action grounded in scientific evidence, environmental stewardship and fiscal accountability. Protecting Prospect Lake means protecting its ecological integrity and its value to the entire community for generations to come.

2. Working with PLPS

If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response:

Yes. If elected, I would support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) to address EWM and broader lake-health concerns. PLPS has already invested significant volunteer expertise, time and resources in EWM mapping, water- quality monitoring, laboratory testing, scientific review, community engagement and lake-management planning. That local knowledge and scientific capacity is valuable and should help inform Saanich's decisions. I would support building on this established foundation through collaboration among PLPS, Saanich, the CRD, First Nations, the Province, qualified experts and other relevant stakeholders. This should include clear roles, shared information, measurable objectives and ongoing monitoring. My experience working with community associations and municipal staff has reinforced that good local government works best when community knowledge and professional expertise are brought together. Partnership does not require everyone to agree; it requires a constructive process where evidence can be considered and practical solutions developed. If elected, I would support an open, accountable and ongoing partnership with PLPS to protect Prospect Lake's ecological, recreational and community values.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response:

Yes. If elected, I would support establishing a clear and accountable plan for using the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to support targeted, evidence-based actions addressing EWM and improving the health of Prospect Lake. The \$200,000 reserve fund established specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake, should be used purposefully, guided by sound science, clear priorities and measurable outcomes. The plan should build on the monitoring and research already underway and identify proposed actions, expected environmental benefits, costs, timelines and measures of success. Ongoing monitoring would allow Saanich and the community to determine whether actions are achieving their intended results and adjust the approach when evidence warrants it. This aligns with my commitment to fiscal responsibility: make every taxpayer dollar count. Using a dedicated reserve responsibly means connecting spending to clearly defined environmental outcomes and reporting transparently on results. Protecting Saanich's natural assets requires both environmental stewardship and responsible financial management. The Prospect Lake Reserve Fund provides an opportunity to put both principles into action while protecting the lake as an important public and community asset.

Garnett Humenick

1. Should Saanich make addressing the milfoil a priority?

Yes. Prospect Lake is where a lot of Saanich kids learn to swim, and one of those special places here that mean not only so much to our water ways eco system but to our communities connection to nature and land. Milfoil spreads. It takes the shoreline and it costs more every year it is left. I would also like us to stop handling invasives as a one-off contract. Put it in the job. Our own parks staff on it year round, with W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge alongside them as colleagues, working the underbrush and the banks and the invasives together.

2. Will I support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS?

Yes. Volunteers have been monitoring that lake since 2008. Saanich did not pay for any of that. I want to go to the people who know the ground before a plan gets written. On this one that group already exists and already works with the district. Volunteers should not have to carry it forever, though. Partnership means Saanich putting staff time in.

3. Will I support a clear plan to put the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to work?

Yes. Someone who lived on that lake left money so it would be looked after. It has been sitting since 2023. I would want a plan with dates on it, and a report back so people can see what the fund bought and whether the lake got better.

Sasha Izard

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Yes. Ecological balances are easily disturbed by foreignly introduced invasive plant species. My own work is in this field in removing invasive foreign introduced plant species on land. Prospect Lake is a critical part of Saanich's eco-systems.

2. Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake? Absolutely.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: Yes. That is a great idea. you, Sasha Izard

Response:

Laurie Lidstone

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Addressing Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Prospect Lake must be a high priority for both Saanich and the Province. Across British Columbia, this invasive species is rapidly compromising local freshwater ecosystems. Having spent decades visiting a family cabin further up Vancouver Island, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating ecological changes caused by this invasive aquatic plant over the last 15 years. It is a critical issue that demands immediate, proactive intervention before the damage to local biodiversity and recreational access becomes irreversible.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: Absolutely. I will strongly support continuing and strengthening Saanich's partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS). The immense dedication, scientific monitoring, and financial resources that PLPS volunteers have contributed, particularly over the past three years, are invaluable to our community. Collaborative, evidence-based partnerships like this are essential not only for restoring Prospect Lake, but also for establishing a framework to protect lakes across the entire region.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: Yes, I fully support creating a clear, actionable plan for the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund. The \$200,000 is ear market for Prospect Lake. Lake. I will advocate for deploying these funds toward targeted, measurable EWM control measures and tangible environmental results are delivered.

Matt McGeachie

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Yes, it should be a priority. Doing nothing simply exacerbates the problem.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: Yes. We need to follow the science. Local knowledge is key to understanding the issues and finding solutions.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: If money is available and this fits within the spirit of the donation then by all means let's use it to expedite a recovery program.

Teale Phelps-Bondaroff

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response:

Tackling invasive species is something that should not be put off. The health of natural areas like Swan Lake, PKOLS, Panama Flats, and Prospect Lake are critical to wildlife, buffering the severity of climate impacts, and for our own relationship to nature. I firmly believe we need to take an evidence-based approach to understanding the problems and then addressing issues with the necessary funding, policies, and actions. Also, delaying action on these issues almost always ensures they become more difficult and

expensive to deal with over time.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response:

Yes. I have already had the pleasure of attending an information session concerning the removal of EWM from the lake and I was very impressed with the level of commitment and dedication to data collection and research by those involved. As someone who has worked in marine conservation for decades, I know that we must follow an evidence-based approach to tackling issues that threaten ecosystems. This means that reliable and usable data must be collected longitudinally, and that a wide range of solutions must be contemplated in light of local conditions and the best available empirical evidence.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response:

Yes. I think such a plan needs to include not just actions to address EWM that is currently in the lake but also include elements that support ongoing education campaigns aimed at preventing the introduction of additional invasives. We also know that efforts to address EWM that remove plants from lakes also require ongoing long term monitoring and removal efforts, and these should also be included in the plan. I would also want to make sure that the plan did not focus exclusively on EWM removal, as we will also want to ensure that some funds are available to address other emerging issues.

Colin Plant

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not? Yes. Protecting Prospect Lake's ecological health is important to preserving one of Saanich's valued natural and recreational assets. I support addressing Eurasian watermilfoil through evidence-based management that protects water quality, biodiversity and recreational opportunities. We have a responsibility to be proactive in protecting our lakes and ensuring they remain healthy and enjoyable for future generations.

2. Working with PLPS

If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Absolutely. The Prospect Lake Preservation Society brings decades of valuable scientific knowledge, monitoring and community stewardship. I support strengthening Saanich's partnership with PLPS to develop practical, evidence-based solutions to invasive watermilfoil. By working collaboratively, respecting local expertise and establishing clear objectives, we can make informed decisions that deliver meaningful, long-term improvements to Prospect Lake's health.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Yes. I support developing a clear, transparent plan to put the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to work for its intended purpose: protecting the health of the lake. I was pleased to move the motions that helped establish this \$200,000 fund in 2023. I support working with PLPS and municipal staff to identify targeted, evidence-based actions to address Eurasian watermilfoil, establish measurable outcomes and ensure these funds deliver lasting environmental benefits for Prospect Lake and our community.

Brendan Ralfs

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: I strongly believe addressing the EWM in Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich. As a lifetime (and current) resident of the Prospect Lake area, I understand the physical, mental and recreational health benefits Prospect Lake provides to the residents of Saanich, as well as its key role in contributing to the overall health of Saanich's local ecosystem, including Tod Creek Watershed.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: I am running for council to represent all of Saanich, but my passion for rural Saanich and the Prospect Lake area is one of the primary reasons I ultimately chose to put my name forward for Saanich Council in 2026. If elected, I would champion Saanich continuing to strengthen its partnership with the Prospect Lake Preservation Society to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM and any other threats to the health of Prospect Lake.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: I have attended most of the meetings held by the PLPS over the past 2 years and have listened to many of the discussions around the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund and the confusion as to why it cannot be used to support the response to the threat posed to the lake by EWM. If elected, I will not only support, but champion, establishing a clear path to using the Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to achieve measurable improvements to Prospect Lake's health. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. I look forward to connecting with you further.

Jordan Weaver

Many thanks for being in touch. Below, please find my answers to your questionnaire:

1. I understand the serious ecological threat posed by Eurasian watermilfoil to Prospect Lake and believe that Saanich should make this a priority.
2. If elected, I would most certainly support a continued, strong partnership with PLPS.
3. If elected, I would of course support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to

for evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieving measurable improvements in the health of Prospect Lake. Protection of Saanich's parks and green spaces, as well as waterways, wetlands and natural areas is a stated priority of my campaign and I am very supportive and appreciate of the grassroots work of your organisation. It's regrettable that the Prospect Lake all candidates' meeting had to be cancelled but I am glad that you have written to me. I would be interested in visiting the dock at Whitehead Park to view the EWM summer growth. Would it be possible for me to schedule a time to meet there with representatives of your organisation so that I could listen and learn.

Sierra Wicks-Irving

Question 1) I believe that addressing the invasive EMW in prospect lake should be a priority in Saanich. Anything that can protect our wildlife and ecosystems should be a priority, especially in an instance where there is an obvious problem that can be dealt with. It is important to protect what we have so we do not lose it forever. Additionally, over the CRD we have seen multiple lakes become unsafe for swimming and recreation due to invasive species and it makes many people upset when they can't enjoy these spaces so why not address it now?

2) I think a partnership between Saanich and the PLPS society would be a positive thing. Any collaboration with different communities in Saanich is beneficial given that one person is not going to know what is going on in every single area of Saanich. Until this point, I did not know about an invasive species in Prospect lake and now that it is on my radar, I want to do what I can to help. It is also important to work with other organizations to gain knowledge and to see where these issues arise and what Saanich council can do to strengthen not only the community bonds with prospect lake but to also restore important environmental spaces within prospect lake.

3) If elected, I would be more than willing to help come up with a plan to help Prospect lake. I do not have all the evidence based knowledge to fix things myself but I am willing to collaborate, do the research needed and work with the community to find ways to address the EMW and restore the health of prospect lake. Given that I am not an expert on what is going on in prospect lake, it is important to listen to the people that have done the research and know what is going on. Collaboration is vital to ensuring the well-being of communities.

Graham Wright

1. Protecting Prospect Lake Health

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aggressive invasive species, has extensively colonized Prospect Lake's shoreline, presenting a serious threat to the lake's ecological health and recreational use. Do you believe addressing the invasive EWM to protect and restore the health of Prospect Lake should be a priority for Saanich?

Why or why not?

Response: Yes! When an aggressive, invasive, weed that can strangle out the native plants and ruin the recreational and wildlife use of an important resource happens, we should be acting sooner rather than later to fix it. Saanich and the PLPS should be working on this hand in hand.

2. Working with PLPS

Prospect Lake Preservation Society (PLPS) has decades of lake-specific scientific evidence, monitoring experience, practical knowledge and solutions for the health of Prospect Lake and a history of partnering on solutions with Saanich. If elected, will you support Saanich continuing and strengthening its partnership with PLPS to deliver evidence-based solutions to the threat of EWM to the health of Prospect Lake?

Response: YES. We sat down with a couple of dedicated residents of Prospect Lake, and were made aware of some potentially effective treatment options and that seemed like positive news to me. I would support a cooperative relationship between both parties - absolutely. This falls well within our EO's priority mandate to protect our natural resources.

3. Putting the Prospect Lake Fund to Work

As part of a bequest from a lakeside resident, Saanich established the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund in 2023 with \$200,000 specifically to maintain and support the health of Prospect Lake. If elected, will you support establishing a clear plan to use the Prospect Lake Reserve Fund to fund targeted, evidence-based actions to address EWM and achieve measurable improvements in Prospect Lake's health?

Response: YES. I would like to quickly determine if and why this funding has not been made available to PLPS

to take action. If we are indeed at a moment in time where action needs to take place (I remember there was an evaluation phase to determine the effectiveness of the herbicide) then I support funding it with the budget available and budget for future treatments, education, and prevention as available.

Candidate response-status register

Updated October 13, 2026 to include additional responses received after the September 27 deadline.

Mayoral candidates

Last name	First name	Questionnaire status
DeVries	Zac	Received
Harper	Karen	No response by deadline
Sharma	Rishi	Received
Stanbridge	Robin	No email address found for this candidate

Councillor candidates

Last name	First name	Questionnaire status
Bagheri	Mehdi	No response by deadline
Baty	Colette	Received
Booth	Erin	Received
Brice	Susan	Received
Brownoff	Judy	Received
Burton	Kathleen	Received
Cameron	Don	Received
Chambers	Nathalie	No response by deadline
Curbelo	Mauricio	Received
Deelstra	Alli	Received
DeLarge	Lorne	Received
Di Castri	Nancy	Received
Finn	Fairbairn	No response by deadline
Fruttarol	Noah	No response by deadline
Hodson	Hollis	Received
Humenick	Garnett	Received
Izard	Sasha	Received
Lidstone	Laurie	Received
McGeachie	Matt	Received
Phelps-Bonderoff	Teale	Received
Plant	Colin	Received
Ralfs	Brendan	Received

Last name	First name	Questionnaire status
Renaud	Nic	No email address found for this candidate
Sibbald	Tia	No email address found for this candidate
Singh Poplli	Harjas	No response by deadline
Weaver	Jordan	Received
Wicks-Irving	Sierra	Received
Wright	Graham	Received