

**The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Trent Lakes**

**By-law No. B2026-014**

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**A by-law to regulate the placement of election  
signs in the Municipality of Trent Lakes**

**Recitals:**

1. Section 11(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, permits a lower-tier municipality to pass by-laws, subject to the rules set out in subsection (4), respecting structures, including fences and signs.
2. Section 63 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, provides that a by-law may prohibit or regulate the placing or standing of an object on or near a highway, and may provide for the removal and impounding or restraining and immobilizing of any object placed or standing on or near a highway in contravention of that by-law.
3. Section 425 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, establishes that any person who contravenes any by-law of the municipality is guilty of an offence.

The Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Lakes hereby enact as follows:

**Definitions**

**1. Definitions**

- 1.1. **Candidate** means any individual who has filed nominations in a federal, provincial, municipal or school board election or by-election, or a Candidate seeking nomination for a political party. The term Candidate can also be substituted to read political party, constituency association, Third Party Advertiser, or a person or group supporting or opposing a question or by-law on a ballot.
- 1.2. **Council** means the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Lakes.
- 1.3. **Director** means the Director of Public Works for the Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Lakes or their designate.
- 1.4. **Election Sign** means an advertising device which, by the use of words, pictures or graphics or any combination thereof, is intended to promote, oppose or take a position with respect to any of the following under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act:
  - a. Any Candidate or political party in an election;
  - b. An issue associated with a person or political party in an election; or
  - c. A question, law or by-law submitted to the electors.
- 1.5. **Municipality** means The Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Lakes.
- 1.6. **Officer** means a Person appointed by Council as a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, or a Police Officer, or another individual duly appointed to enforce this By-law.
- 1.7. **Person** includes an individual, association, firm, partnership, corporation, trust, organization, trustee or agent, and their heirs, executors or legal representatives or a person to whom the context can apply according to the law.
- 1.8. **Private Property** means those lands under private ownership and not forming part of a Road Allowance.

- 1.9. **Public Property** means any land, building or other structure owned, leased, operated or otherwise controlled by the Municipality, other than a Road Allowance, and includes the Municipal Office, operation centres, libraries, community and recreation centres, transfer stations, public works depots, parks, trails, sports fields and open space.
- 1.10. **Road Allowance** means a Municipal road allowance and includes all lands and structures contained within the limits of the allowance including grassed areas, ditches, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and other structures and includes a "Highway" as defined under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act which is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality.
- 1.11. **Sign** means any surface, structure and other component parts, which are used or capable of being used as a visual medium or display to attract attention to specific subject matter for identification, information or advertising purposes, and shall include an Advertising Device or notice.
- 1.12. **Sign Area** means the area of the display surface including the border or frame of the Sign or all of the area of the display surface lying within the extremities of the Sign, if the Sign does not have a border or frame, but excluding the Sign Structure.
- 1.13. **Sign Face** means that portion of a Sign on which a message is intended to be displayed.
- 1.14. **Sign Structure** means anything used to support or brace a Sign Face and which is attached to the ground or a building or structure.
- 1.15. **Third Party Advertiser** means means any individual, corporation or trade union registered in accordance with Section 88.6 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched., Section 37.5 of the Election Finances Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.7, or Section 353 of the Canada Elections Act, S.C. 2000, c. 9.

## **General Provisions**

### **2. Scope**

- 2.1. Unless otherwise specifically exempted, all property within the geographic limits of the Municipality shall be subject to the provisions of this by-law.
- 2.2. This by-law shall not apply to any road allowances and properties owned and operated by the Corporation of the County of Peterborough. The Peterborough County Election Sign By-law shall be followed for all road allowances and properties owned and operated by the Corporation of the County of Peterborough.
- 2.3. This by-law shall apply to:
  - a. all regular federal, provincial, municipal and school board elections, including any by-election; and
  - b. Candidates, Third Party Advertisers and all other persons erecting Election Signs.
- 2.4. This by-law shall not apply to:
  - a. signs erected by the Municipality or the provincial or federal governments to provide information concerning an election or by-election or any part of an election or by-election process; and
  - b. non-election related signs, which are regulated by the Municipality's Sign By-law.

### **3. Interpretation**

- 3.1. Words importing the singular number only include more persons, parties or things of the same kind than one.

- 3.2. The requirements of this by-law are provided in metric units.
- 3.3. Where a distance is used in this by-law, as part of an Election Sign location regulation, such distance shall be measured in a straight horizontal line parallel to the ground; and
  - a. where the specified distance is referenced from an intersection, shall be measured from the projection of the closest curb line of the intersecting highway, to the nearest part of the said Election Sign; and
  - b. where the specified distance is referenced from a street line, property line, or other sign, object, structure, or property, shall be measured from the nearest part of the said reference to the nearest part of any Election Sign, in all directions.

#### **4. Sign Permit**

- 4.1. The placement of an Election Sign shall not require the issuance of a sign permit by the Municipality.

#### **5. Fee**

- 5.1. Election Signs shall not require the payment of a fee.

### **Regulation of Election Signs**

#### **6. General Provisions**

- 6.1. No Candidate, Third Party Advertiser or their agent or any other person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign, except as specifically permitted in this by-law or under prescribed legislation.
- 6.2. No person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign which:
  - a. creates a safety hazard;
  - b. impedes or obstructs maintenance or construction operations;
  - c. impedes or obstructs vehicular traffic or the passage of pedestrians where they are reasonably expected to walk;
  - d. impairs or obstructs the visibility of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, including intersections, trails, or entranceways;
  - e. is illuminated, has flashing or moving parts or obstructs any official sign or signal or simulate any traffic control device;
  - f. interferes with or obstructs the view of or obscures or detracts from the visibility or effectiveness of an authorized traffic control sign, traffic control signal or an official sign or any sign capable of being consumed with such traffic control sign, traffic control signal or an official sign;
  - g. obstructs the view of any pedestrian or motor vehicle operator so as to cause an unsafe condition;
  - h. obstructs the flow of water in a drain, ditch or watercourse;
  - i. obstructs or interferes with any maintenance or construction operations;
  - j. interferes with or may damage any above or below ground municipal or utility services which have been lawfully placed at the location;
  - k. is affixed to any permanent or official highway sign, signal, support, guardrail or other roadway structure, utility pole, light standard, utility box, fence post, tree, planter, bench, waste receptacle, newspaper box, mail box, bridge, structure, official sign or painted or pasted onto a rock surface;
  - l. contains or is accompanied with a device that creates noise;
  - m. is obsolete and advertises an election event that is concluded;
  - n. is in a state of disrepair or in an unsafe, damaged or hazardous condition;
  - o. is anchored with any hazardous objects;
  - p. obstructs or interferes with a fire escape plan, fire exit, fire hydrant or standpipe; and/or
  - q. interferes with the safe movement of traffic, including but not limited to the obstruction of sight lines at intersections where road alignment or

grade changes or the impediment of snow removal operations.

- 6.3. No person shall deface, relocate, remove, wilfully cause damage or permit the cause of damage to a lawfully erected Election Sign placed within the Road Allowance, except for the Candidate or Third Party Advertiser to whom the Election Sign belongs.

## **7. Public Property**

- 7.1. No person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign:
- a. in or on any Public Property that is not a Road Allowance;
  - b. on any Road Allowance immediately adjacent to Public Property; or
  - c. on any Road Allowance adjacent to Private Property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.
- 7.2. No Person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign on any Road Allowance exceeding 0.5574 square metres in Sign Area.
- 7.3. Election Signs shall be erected, installed, posted, displayed, maintained or kept no closer than 2 metres from the travelled portion of the roadway.

## **8. Private Property**

- 8.1. No Person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Signs on Private Property without the consent of the owner or occupant of the property.
- 8.2. No Person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election on Private Property exceeding a height of 1.25 metres or a width of 1.25 metres.

## **9. Sign Maintenance**

- 9.1. Election Signs shall, at all times, be maintained in a state of good repair.

## **10. Timing**

- 10.1. No Person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign until the day the writ of election or by-election is issued for Provincial or Federal elections or by-elections.
- 10.2. No Person shall erect, install, post, display, maintain, alter or keep an Election Sign until Nomination Day in the year of that election for Municipal elections.
- 10.3. All election signs shall be removed by the Candidate or Third Party Advertiser no later than 48 hours after midnight on the last polling/voting day.

## **11. Use of Municipal Logo, Crest, Seal**

- 11.1. No Person shall use the Municipality's logo, crest, coat of arms, slogan, and other similarly branded corporate resources or trademarks on any Election Signs.

## **Special Provisions for Third Party Advertisers**

### **12. Registration**

- 12.1. A Third Party Advertiser must be registered with the Clerk prior to erecting any Election Signs.

### **13. Required Information**

- 13.1. Election Signs erected by Third Party Advertisers or their agents shall contain valid and up-to-date contact information, including:
  - a. the name of the Third Party Advertiser;
  - b. the municipality where the Third Party Advertiser is registered; and
  - c. a telephone number, mailing address or email address at which the Third Party Advertiser may be contacted.

## **Inspection and Enforcement**

### **14. Enforcement**

- 14.1. This by-law shall be enforced by:
  - a. the Director or their designate; and/or
  - b. an Officer.

### **15. Inspection and Removal**

- 15.1. From time to time, the Director or Officer may inspect any Election Sign that has been erected, installed, posted, displayed, maintained, altered or kept and make their determination as to the conformity of the Election Sign with the provisions of this by-law.
- 15.2. If, upon inspection of an Election Sign on Public Property, it is apparent that a Person has erected, installed, posted, displayed, maintained, altered or kept an Election Sign that fails to conform to the provisions of this by-law and all other application by-laws and legislation, the Municipality may:
  - a. Require such person to make such alterations to the Election Sign or to its Sign Structure to bring the Election Sign into conformity with the applicable by-law and legislation; or
  - b. Give written notice to such Persons requiring such person to remove such Election Sign prior to a specified date; or
  - c. Dismantle and remove the Election Sign without notice or compensation.
- 15.3. If, upon inspection of an Election Sign on Private Property, it is apparent that a Person has erected, installed, posted, displayed, maintained, altered or kept in contravention of this By-law, the Director or Officer may forward a notice, by personal service, telephone or regular post, to the registered owner/lessee of the Property, or owner of the Election Sign, or their agents, requiring that the Election Sign be removed within the time specified in the notice and thereafter not replaced with any Election Sign in contravention of this By-law or to alter the Election Sign to comply with this By-law.
- 15.4. If a notice described in subsection 15.3 is not complied with, the Director or Officer may require Municipal employees or an independent contractor to enter land and remove an Election Sign at the expense of the owner thereof, the Person who permitted or caused the Election Sign to be displayed or the owner of the Property on which it is situated. The Municipality, or their agents, shall not be liable to compensate such owner or other Person having an interest in the Election Sign for reason of anything done by or on behalf of the Municipality under the provisions of this By-law
- 15.5. Any Election Sign removed shall be stored for up to seven (7) days after the last polling/voting day. A Candidate, Third Party Advertiser, or any Person acting on behalf of a Candidate or Third Party Advertiser may retrieve a sign stored by the Municipality.
- 15.6. The Municipality may, without notice or compensation to any Person, destroy or otherwise dispose of any Election Sign that has not been retrieved within the aforementioned period.

### **16. Liability for Damages**

- 16.1. The Municipality shall not be liable for any damages or loss to an Election

Sign that was displayed in accordance with this by-law or that was removed by the Municipality pursuant to the provisions of this by-law.

**Administration and Approval**

**17. Short Title**

17.1. This by-law may be referred to as the "Election Sign By-law".

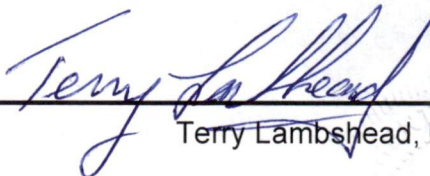
**18. Repeal**

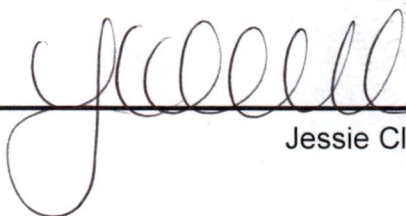
18.1. Municipality of Trent Lakes By-law B2022-045 is hereby repealed.

**19. Approval and Effective Date**

19.1. This by-law shall come into force on the date it is finally passed.

Read a first, second and third time and passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
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Terry Lamshead, Mayor

  
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Jessie Clark, Clerk

