

My name is Stefan Cornelissen, and I am running for Village of Shell Lake Council in the upcoming September 30th election.

Three summers ago, my wife Camille and I made the decision to move to Shell Lake and take on the opportunity of operating Aurora Skies Resorts while also starting Aurora Skies Outfitting. Since then, we have devoted a great deal of our time and energy to developing our small businesses and promoting tourism in the Shell Lake area. I have been actively watching and listening at council meetings for over 1 year and have been interested in joining council.

I am a friendly, approachable, and easy-going person who believes that communities are strongest when people work together. I am also active in our community through volunteer work and believe that giving back and being involved are important parts of being a good community member.

Through our businesses and involvement in the area, we have seen firsthand the tremendous potential Shell Lake has as a destination for tourism, seasonal residents, and year-round families.

I believe Shell Lake has a real opportunity to grow, while maintaining the character that makes our community special. With thoughtful planning, updated bylaws and policies, and a willingness to embrace new ideas, I believe we can make Shell Lake an even more attractive place for seasonal visitors, new businesses, families, and residents of all ages.

If elected, one of my priorities will be improving accountability and working collaboratively with fellow council members to re-establish a balanced budget, control operational spending and reduce the financial risk currently being placed on the residents of Shell Lake.

I also believe the village needs to look at ways of generating additional revenue from seasonal tourists and visitors to help offset some of the financial pressure currently placed on taxpayers. A growing tourism economy can benefit not only local businesses, but the Village as a whole.

My background in construction has also given me experience with capital projects, planning, budgeting, bidding, and understanding the importance of careful project management. I understand the importance of careful planning, competitive bidding, and accountability to ensure that taxpayers receive the best possible value for their money and projects are completed on time and on budget.

If elected, I hope to bring new ideas and practical concepts to Council that can improve efficiency, make our annual budget go further, and help position Shell Lake for sustainable growth for the long run. My business mindset will bring forth new ideas and concepts to help Shell Lake crawl out from year of deficits, without placing financial strain on its residents.

I am not running because I believe I hold the golden key to all our problems. I am running because I believe Shell Lake has tremendous potential if all council members work together for the common goal of growth and sustainability. I want to be part of finding practical solutions, listening to residents, and working together to build a stronger future for our community.

I would be honoured to serve the residents of Shell Lake and work toward a community that is financially responsible, welcoming, growing, and prosperous for years to come.

Stefan Cornelissen
Candidate for Village of Shell Lake Council