

Candidate: Pat MacDonald Municipality: Essa Date: October 4, 2018

1. Water is a finite resource. Do you feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in your municipality? If so, how will you achieve this? ANSWER

Water is one of the most valuable and finite resources we have and it must be protected at all costs. On a municipal level any sort of action that impacts on the watershed must be reviewed with protection in mind. On a municipal level, lobbying on a county and then provincial level to ban the sale of plastic water bottles should be instigated.

2. Development charges never fully cover the cost of new development. Will you make sure that all costs that should be paid by development charges under existing legislation are covered? When considering an application, on what basis will you decide whether a development is a net benefit for the community? ANSWER

The answer to the first question is “yes”. And to the second question, common sense and community input should prevail. Any development should have a positive impact on the neighbourhood and should take into account “liveability” within the community. Density, parking, traffic, greenspace and particularly schools have to be taken into consideration.

3. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County? In either case, please explain why. ANSWER

Support. Any organization that purports to help protect farmland, water, and the environment has my support.

4. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater – zoned Agricultural – as the site for a (needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre. Springwater Township objected, pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial. What is your view? ANSWER

I don't know the details, however, based on what I have read here and nothing else, if there is suitable industrial property available, why would one use agricultural property for industrial use. This does not make sense to me.

5. Since 1924, the Ontario Tree Seed Facility in Angus performed a vital task for the whole province of coordinating seed collection from 37 zones across the province to ensure seedlings are returned to grow in the zone to which they are uniquely suited. The Progressive Conservative government is reviewing the closing ordered by the Liberals. What is your opinion on this matter? ANSWER

The tree seed plant must be saved. Biodiversity must be protected. Our forests must be protected. Profit has no room in this equation.

6. If elected, what are your top three priorities? ANSWER

Community. Conservation. Communications