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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality:

Date:

Cathy Keane

Oro-Medonte

October 14, 2018

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than October 4, 2018. The answers will then be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.

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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 a precious resource and I feel that there is no time like the present to identify and protect our natural water sources from irrevocable damage. As a councillor, I would like to work with other agencies and organizations to: discuss concerns and issues currently facing our waterways and wetlands; develop education strategies for the different levels of public regarding water conservation and usage and protecting our natural water sources while considering development and developmental practices.

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

I personally have experienced (in another subdivision I lived in) a developer not finishing what was planned and promised. He took the money from the process and left the subdivision and taxpayers to pay out of pocket to finish the "loose ends" once the homes were built. These loose ends cost the residents tens of thousands of dollars.

I firmly believe that once an agreement is made between the township and a developer, it should be completed in full, and we, the taxpayers, should never be on the hook for a developer that does not do what a developer is legally obligated to do.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. To be honest, I would like more information on what the expansion would mean for Oro-Medonte directly.

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

While I approve of a facility that handles waste in a manner that helps our environment in many ways, I am aware of the concern of placing such a facility in the places that have been tossed around. I knew of the proposed area in Springwater, and understood the concerns residents had there. If it is causing such an uproar, and it is deemed an industrial use facility, perhaps Simcoe County should seek other areas that would work just as well and without infringing on agricultural land, our forests, and neighbourhoods. To be honest, I would like to hear more about the path that led Simcoe County to choose the spot in Springwater, and the other areas that have been considered, directly from someone on Simcoe County Council. A personal meeting would be advantageous at this point, and as a new councillor.

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

I understand the importance of collecting, cataloging and maintaining a collection and registry of scientific specimens. My understanding is that the previous provincial government intended to turn the practices of the Tree Seed Plant to the private sector to continue. This facility has been doing this work successfully for nearly 100 years. I would like to have the opportunity to find out why this was initially thought to be a progressive decision by the former government. I would need some hard evidence to support the closing of this plant after decades of successful work.

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

ANSWER

1. Increase communication to my constituents regarding some major issues in our ward and working to find solutions that support progress while listening to the views of our residents (examples: Craighurst development; the new school in the north end of Ward 3; the ongoing concern about Shanty Bay PS and accessibility; the need for community centres; concerns about speeding in high traffic areas and police presence...)
2. Actively and constantly finding a way to improve infrastructure that many residents are in need of (natural gas, internet, cell phone coverage) while not raising taxes.
3. Educate myself so I will be an informed councillor for you-My initial top priority is to read everything I can about what has been happening in our township over the past few years once I am permitted access to information. To move forward, I feel I need to understand how we got here.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.