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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:	Municipality	Date:
Jessica Klug	Penetanguishene	October 8, 2018 (sorry for the delay!)

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than October 4, 2018. **N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.** The answers will be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

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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?

Water is a source of life and there is every need to protect it from harmful activities. We already know that development impacts our water resources by forcing water to runoff into storm sewers and directly into bodies of water rather than penetrating the soil to recharge our drinking water aquifers.

Relevant legislation, such as the Clean Water Act, are critical to ensuring that water is protected. Local municipalities are required to make decisions that conform to policies set out in the Source Protection Plan so that water is protected before it enters the drinking water treatment system (including restricted uses in vulnerable areas). Councils should also be on top of ways that site design and stormwater management can be improved through the Site Plan Control process.

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?

Development charges are collected as part of the building permit process for a new development, and they are levied to cover some (or all) of the growth-related infrastructure costs that would result for sewer and water, roads, parks and recreation, and other services. However, the balance between development charges and taxation is a tricky one that has long been debated. Where development charges fall short in covering the cost of new development, property taxation makes up the difference. So the big question is whether to put the cost on taxpayers or let the growth pay for itself? The unfortunate part is that research has shown that increased development charges often translate into higher housing prices and/or higher property taxes for all residents. This is a conversation I want to see happen with the community in advance of the next Development Charges study (done every 5 years).

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

Unfortunately, the work that the Province's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing was doing in terms of research and public consultation for the growth of the Greenbelt ("Protecting water for future generations", December 2017) was extremely important work but likely lost due to the change in Provincial power and now there is likely a threat to the existing 810,000 ha of Greenbelt established in 2005 as some areas may be opened up for development. While I don't believe the expansion of the Greenbelt would have made it as far north to Penetanguishene, I believe there are many areas in the County of Simcoe that would benefit from the Greenbelt expansion and the protections it provides for our watersheds.

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?

This sounds like a very important County issue and not one that I am familiar with at this point in time. It seems odd that forested lands were selected rather than a more suitable Industrial zoned property (likely because it was the low-cost option). It's my understanding that the County wanted to use one of their own properties for the siting of the facility but it seems to reason that a public-private partnership may have been a cost-efficient option to explore with fewer environmental and social impacts.

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?

I want to see the Ontario Tree Seed Facility remain open and kept in public hands so that seeds aren't completely commodified in the private market to the detriment of our future forests, public health, climate change adaptation, and so forth. There are various recommendations to help the OTSF become revenue neutral and I hope that the current government explores these various options.

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

My top 3 priorities are to:

- work hard to keep Georgian Bay clean and to protect our thriving natural environment;
- enhance Penetanguishene's local economy and use the Main Street hill as a unique asset;
- make healthy affordable housing a real priority.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire