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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Natalie Harris

Barrie

Sept 26/18

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?

ANSWER I feel there is an absolute need to protect water and wetlands, and to recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in our municipality. Wetlands provide flood control, improve our water quality and provide habitat for many wildlife species. Sadly, up to 70% of Canada's wetlands have been destroyed. Urban expansion poses an extreme threat to water quality and wetland preservation, and I feel as a Barrie City Councillor it will be my responsibility to advocate to protect these precious areas. I am loving what the Florida Everglades, (thanks to US legislation developed in 1986) is doing to combat this problem - they only allow development of wetlands if an equal amount of wetland is established elsewhere. I also think it is imperative to fight invasive species in our waterways and wetlands, and for Barrie City Council to use resources like Ducks Unlimited to learn about research and best practices with respect to this concern and all conservation concerns. Funding to acquire wetland property can come from the Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program. And the North American Water Fowl Plan can provide Barrie Council with much needed species protection information during all urban expansion projects.

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 City of Barrie has a Development Charges Bylaw, (No. 2014-108 under subsection 2(1) of the Development Act). The purpose of this is to “recover growth-related costs associated with the capital infrastructure needed to service new development within the municipality”. (<https://www.barrie.ca/City%20Hall/Planning-and-Development/Documents/City%20Wide%20DCBrochure%20-%20Effective-Jan-1-2018.pdf>). I have a vested interest in making sure that all bylaws are adhered to, and that all costs which should be paid by the developer are covered in full and on time.

As required by the Development Charges Act, 1997, the City Treasurer prepares an annual financial statement reporting on the status and transactions relating to the development charges reserve funds for the previous year. If a developer is in negative standing with respect to paying their development charges, they should not be allowed to submit any further requests for development until the amount owing is paid in full. This will help to improve the number of net benefit transactions in the future, for the City of Barrie.

Deciding whether a development is a net benefit for the community requires detailed, collaborative financial evaluations by the City of Barrie and the builder.

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

ANSWER I absolutely support the growth of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. Doing so will help to protect habitat for wildlife and species at risk. Greenbelt food travels far less to reach our plates thus decreasing our carbon footprint on the environment. Preserving agricultural lands improves Canada’s farming gross-income. Doing so will also safeguard smaller lakes, wetlands and rivers which feed the land.

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 feel that if there are suitable properties zoned industrial, that they should be used instead of agricultural land.

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 think that this is a great initiative. I support it entirely.

6. If elected, what are your top three priorities? ANSWER Keep Lake Simcoe Clean - enjoying clean water is essential to Barrie productivity and community well-being. I will advocate for the continued maintenance of our waterways, beaches and parks, which reflect the beauty Barrie has to offer its residents and guests.

Improved Mental Health Advocacy - while a large portion of health-care is a provincial item, I find it extremely necessary to advocate for growth and improvement to our mental health services at a municipal level as well. Check out my page “Why Mental Health IS a Municipal Concern” at votenatalie.ca for more information.

Improved Community Safety - as a retired paramedic, community safety is paramount in my eyes. Among many safety improvements, I would like to see a cross-walk on Ferndale Dr from Wildwood to Hawthorne in order to help reduce speed and provide a safe place for residents to cross this busy road.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire