2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Jay Fallis  Municipality: Orillia  Date: October 3, 2018

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.

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

   Protecting our environment, our water and wetlands is essential. I recognize that as we move forward we will need to make sure that our city's developments have as little a negative impact as possible on our environment. I would very much welcome the opportunity to work with environmental groups such as the Couchiching Conservancy to ensure that we develop our city appropriately.

   Additionally, I have been made aware that 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed should consist of high-quality forests, according to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. It currently, falls below this 40% threshold. I would be open to looking at ways we can work on that to protect our habitats and water.

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

Development charges should cover costs as much as possible. I recognize that there may be some justifiable exceptions to collecting development charges. However, ensuring that in as many circumstances as possible we collect the planned amount, will be my priority. Over the next decade (2017-2026), approximately $18.77 Million has been identified as fit for recovery through development charges in the city of Orillia. This could be a big benefit for our city.

As for determining whether or not an application is a net benefit to the city, I think it will often be situation dependent. Many factors could fit into this classification. I would personally be sure to consider at least the following: whether it is an environmentally friendly project, its capacity to reduce poverty among Orillia’s population, whether it is appropriately celebrating Orillia’s culture and/or history, if it is a significant economic benefit for Orillians, and if it provides Orillians with a much-needed public service.

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

Answer

This is outside of Orillia’s borders and would likely fall to the provincial government, county, and municipalities influenced. That said, I am very much in support of the Greenbelt Protected Lands and I would support any viable reason for expansion.

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

Again, this falls outside of Orillia’s boundary and would ultimately fall to the county to decide. However, I can certainly understand the concern that residents and the Township of Springwater are expressing. Every effort should be made to protect our area’s self-sustaining forests and other greenspace.
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

*Once again this is a provincial issue. However, I am very much in support of the Ontario Tree Seed Facility’s initiative. It is regrettable that the new provincial government is considering its closure.*

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

Answer

*Balancing Economic Growth with Environmental Protection and keeping our city beautiful for all*

*Poverty Reduction and Affordability for Orillians, especially among seniors and youth*

*Continuing the council’s efforts to bring a centrally located dog park to Orillia*

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire