

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:

In a word "YES", I believe there is a need to support our greatest asset "fresh water ". Canada is blessed with one of the greatest sources of fresh water in the world and unless we create policies and practices to safeguard this valuable resource it will endanger present and future generations. All activities that may directly or indirectly impact this valuable resource and associated wetlands and recharge areas need to be monitored and managed focusing on not just short -term impact but long term as well.

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

Answer:

With the present Development Charges Act, only certain aspects of Capital costs are considered, for example if a Fire Station was required it would be covered under the Act as it provides direct service. A Fire Headquarters if needed would not be supported as "administration" is not supported. The formula used does not allow for full funding on any infrastructure and only the capital cost of construction is allowed. Communities need to understand the true cost, "life cycle costing" which includes all operational costs and future replacement costs at the end of life cycle. Having worked more than 40 years in municipalities, 22 of those at a very Senior level I have faced this challenge many times. When development is considered, a full costing needs to be done, to determine all costs, present and future, to determine the true financial impact to the community. Not only should all possible funding from "development charge" be considered but options such as "Developer", upfront financing and "warranties " on built infrastructure and products need to be considered. I am familiar with challenges from former communities where this approach saved the community large costs in areas like parks and sports-fields for example.

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

Answer:

I support the "principle" of a method of better managing urban sprawl but what I saw proposed in spring from the Provincial Government I could not support. In my opinion it would create more isolated communities that would not be fully serviced and would create real challenges for the municipalities to effectively operate and finance. I think all levels of Government must work together on this challenge with common goals: protection of the environment, including wetlands, water courses, agriculture lands and taking into account the need for connected communities as a starting point.

4. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater- zoned Agriculture- as a 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 agree with the objection of Springwater Township on this matter. In my opinion this is not an appropriate usage and another site should be chosen. The facility is needed but more research needs to be done to determine the “proper” site. I would want to know what “criteria” was used to make the selection and why it was not limited to “industrial sites” only. I have been told this site will service the County and I can not understand why an industrial site within the boundaries of the County was not proposed. I think there are other Communities more centrally located with industrial sites available that will reduce truck traffic and better serve the County. I would continue to lobby for a review of this matter.

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:

From my understanding the decision was made to avoid Capital costs of much needed infrastructure improvements and repairs. This being said, the facility provided an important service that should be supported and I think worthy of the investment required. I am pleased to hear that our new Provincial Government is reviewing this decision and I would hope that the County Council and Communities within Simcoe County are throwing their support behind this important facility and the service it provides to the entire Province.

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

Answer:

- 1) Fiscal Management: Better management of Tax Dollars and holding Staff and Council accountable. Having worked my entire career in Municipal Government I understand the challenges facing communities and have a proven track record of improving service to citizens through operational improvements which leads to reducing operational costs therefore reducing the need for tax increases.
- 2) Environmental Stewardship: Better dialogue with our community to create policies and practices that safeguard our environment for future generations. Stakeholder engagement is critical to determine the challenges and vulnerabilities in our community so that an “action plan” can be created with agreed-to deliverables. Now is the time to move to action to prevent further deterioration.
- 3) Growth Management: Ensuring existing residents are involved in decisions that may impact them as we move forward and develop plans and policies to have growth “pay for growth” As we move forward with the proposed growth we need to have a better understanding of the full

cost of development including, capital costs, operating costs and future asset replacement costs. We need to understand the impact to existing communities including; services (existing and proposed) transportation and traffic impacts and future costs and possible tax implications. Many communities in this province have faced rapid growth and now are experiencing high, unanticipated, debt loads that require a large portion of “tax dollars” to pay down this debt which causes challenges in providing services and financing new capital programs.