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Ward 5 Candidate
New Tecumseth.

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

There is an absolute need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas as well as to strengthen drainage plans to address the impacts of climate change. There needs to be a greater emphasis placed upon holding developers, aggregate, and fill operations to account and to always contemplate how their activities may affect not just the immediate area but the entire aquifer and watershed. I will also advocate for stricter enforcement and follow up, and request fines be levied or compensation requirements fulfilled when companies have illegally dumped fill or not followed subdivision agreements intended to protect the environment and neighbouring properties.

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 must be collected to the fullest extent possible - and the province lobbied by municipalities to expand the number of items that are DC eligible to include transit, hospitals, cultural centres and municipal facilities. We must also revise the process so that DCs are collectable earlier in the process.

As an extra layer of oversight, New Tecumseth should be reinstating Committee's of Council - and those groups should have their input considered. Developments need to be looked at with an eye toward compatibility with the existing neighbourhoods, wholistic drainage, and environmental impacts as well as contemplating a better balance of commercial/industrial uses and more diverse and affordable housing.

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

ANSWER

Yes, I think it is very important, as this area sees more development than the Greenbelt expands into Simcoe County. There should be consultation with the Agricultural community, and adequate compensation provided should private property uses need to be restricted. In addition to fully engaging any property owners who may be directly impacted there should be an educational component that engages the entire community and explains the benefits of a logically interconnected greenbelt, the protection of productive farms, improving the quality of streams and watercourses and the value and function of wetland, forests. The educational component could be undertaken along with the promotion of healthy outdoor activities and farmers markets that promote local products.

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

There is great opportunity to revamp much of Simcoe County's waste services and to create many more opportunities for diversion. There are other more suitable locations in industrial areas for the Resource Recovery Centre to be located.

Neighbouring upper tier governments like The Region of Peel have implemented successful community recycling centers, located transfer sites within Industrial areas, and set up stores where items that can be reused are salvaged and sold.

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

My understanding based solely on media reports is that the facility is slated to close. New Tecumseth should be consulting Essa, the County, Conservation Authorities and the province as well as any local nurseries and others who utilize the facility to question whether the province's proposed solution is sufficient to meet the needs of the clients who have used the facility. If there are shortfalls in the proposed future services the municipalities should lobby the province the work with present clients to make sure their needs are met - and that any change in service level does not have a detrimental effect financially or to the sustainability of the clients..

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

ANSWER

I'm not sure if I can fairly identify only 3 priorities. Certainly, issues across the municipality opposing the massive 15,000 unit, Mattamy/ Cappuccitti development - and preventing the County from taking over water and wastewater services are high priorities. as well as bringing the pipeline to Tottenham, resolving the drainage issues in Beeton, shut down the fill operation on Hwy. 9.

Ward specific issues that are a priority include addressing speed limits and roadway maintenance, the expansion of the Beeton Manor, and a transit system that works for all residents in New Tecumseth.