

2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Angela Gravelle

Municipality

Town of Innisfil

Date:

Sept. 24, 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.

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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?**

ANGIE'S ANSWER

*Yes I do view water as a finite resource and believe that there is a **fundamental obligation** to protect this resource. However, I personally do not think that the protection of this valued resource should rest solely with local government.*

I firmly believe that it is a multi-jurisdictional obligation and is a shared responsibility with our provincial and federal governments.

By their very nature, water-courses and watersheds are not always contained within a single defined municipal boundary. I believe that local capacity is somewhat limited and the senior levels of government have a "very" important role to play in assisting in this key issue.

The partnership amongst all three levels of government is critical in achieving solutions that will serve the long-term interest of all Ontarians.

You may be interested in the concerns which I have raised very recently over the callous approach taken by my local municipality (Innisfil) as it pertains to the lack of concern and care they have shown for private drinking wells as it relates to the spraying of "round-up" as a weed control measure for phragmites. (see attached letter dated September 12, 2018.)

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?

ANGIE'S ANSWER

Yes, I do support the requirement that development charges should recover the cost of municipal infrastructure. However... having said that I also recognize that there is a balancing act which impacts the municipality's ability to recover 100% of those costs.

I would be in-favour of further consultation and re-examination of the development charges legislation to ensure that other costs which are impacted by growth are carefully considered.

Building complete communities goes well beyond the traditional infrastructure considerations which we have previously relied upon. Today health and wellness centres, hospices, affordable housing, public transportation hubs and other similar community/social issues form the cornerstone of building what we consider a complete community.

The ability of local government to collect these costs through the traditional tax levy is fast approaching a saturation point. At the same time we need to be practical and pragmatic about the question of affordability of our housing and creating employment opportunities!

We have in fact upper and lower tier governments, along with the various school boards each eyeing development charges, so with all of this layering on we have to consider the question of affordability and the implications the totality of the development charges has on both housing and employment opportunities in our communities.

The question of "net benefit" to the community is an interesting one.

As investments are made in the infrastructure (water/wastewater) these are intended to be long-term investments. I recall seeing some literature that suggested that plants that are not running at or near capacity may be somewhat inefficient. From a business perspective we would want to maximize our investment (plants) and ensure that we are leveraging the capacity to ensure we are getting a return on that investment and avoiding the depreciation on an underperforming asset.

I realize that "we" in the municipal sector DO NOT apply that logic to our infrastructure and far too often "overbuild" and then absorb the depreciation costs with limited or no return.

Secondly, even before we make new investments we can continue to explore a number of initiatives that can lower our demand on the current asset and avoid having to spend the money on the new infrastructure. Water conservation (low flow toilets) is a good example of where we can find efficiencies and some progressive municipal programs have found long- term benefits for residents as well as the demands at the plants. In addition, we need to be aggressive about inflow and infiltration studies which examine the amount of water that seeps into the sanitary water system and ultimately is treated at a cost to all ratepayers. Being aggressive in managing this type of problem can also help to delay costly plant investments.

Setting aside the infrastructure considerations let's consider the societal challenge of the aging baby-boomers and the need in the very short term for more appropriate housing for seniors. If we can find more suitable housing for this segment of the population within the community, when the seniors sell their existing homes this "recycling" of housing stock - the original seniors development has several community benefits both direct and indirect.

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

ANGIE'S ANSWER

There seems to be some conflicting statements from the current provincial government on the question of the greenbelt. I think it is important to see what arguments are advanced on both sides of the greenbelt question and make informed decisions once the facts are on the table.

I am not opposed philosophically in protecting and preserving lands but I would want to hear the arguments before anyone's property rights are taken for granted.

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?

ANGIE'S ANSWER

As I understand the County looked at just over 500 sites before selecting this forest in Springwater.

The forest is roughly 84 hectares (208 acres) in size and the approximate size of the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre is about 7% of the total property which means 93% of the property will continue to be a managed County forest and accessible for recreational purposes.

As long as any future expansion does not have any negative environmental impact and is minimal (under 5% of the remaining lands) I really don't have an issue with the size of the intrusion for the purposes of an organics processing facility and a materials management facility (potential future this initiative).

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?

ANGIE'S ANSWER

I certainly think that the merits of ensuring a native species seed promulgation strategy is a good one and provided that the existing service is meeting the expectations of that program in both an effective and efficient manner, then I am supportive of the review which the progressive conservative government is undertaking.

In celebration of Canada's 150th, I undertook a personal pledge to our environment. I decided to purchase over 500 tree seedlings, and together with my family we planted over 150+ trees in Innisfil. The remaining trees were donated to others for the cause.

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

ANGIE'S ANSWER

- 1. Effective delivery of local government services (undertaking a full service delivery review process to ensure that the expenditure of tax dollars is being achieved and the services required by the residents and businesses of the town of Innisfil are being effectively delivered).*
- 2. Ensuring that there is a balanced and complete community growth plan through prudent investment in infrastructure with an emphasis on delivering employment opportunities for our residents. I want to reduce the congestion and traffic gridlock along the 400 corridor because our residents are driving outside of our community for employment opportunities. I also want to ensure that we achieve the employment numbers that have been directed to Innisfil through the growth plan.*
- 3. Enhancing sufficient lead times for community consultations – not rushing important community issues through- without an opportunity for "real" input.*

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire!