



[www.aware-simcoe.ca](http://www.aware-simcoe.ca)

## 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Donna Baylis

Township of Clearview - Ward 2

September 29, 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

Absolutely. There is a need to protect water quality and quantity since water is critical to all life today and for the future. I have taken the Food & Water First Pledge. I am acutely aware of the importance of water, wetlands and recharge areas, as well as prime farmland. I will put food and water first in my decision-making and encourage others to do the same.

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

I am an advocate for full cost accounting, which considers environmental, health and social costs as well as economic benefit.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. The mandate of the Greenbelt is to provide clarity and certainty about urban structure, where and how future growth should be accommodated and what must be protected for current and future generations. Food, water, forests and wildlife corridors are of the utmost importance. Our children and grandchildren are entitled to grow up with the same quality and diversity of life as we have enjoyed.

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 participated in the 2016 public meetings and had a chance to submit my comments on the short list of proposed sites. The County vetted more than 500 sites. While I am disappointed that a county forest was ultimately chosen, I understand the reasoning behind the decision. In this case, the need for local waste management and organics processing (versus trucking to Guelph) may justify the loss of part of the forest. I am happy to see that the decision is being challenged because I was concerned about the lack of participation in the well-advertised public meetings. While I understand delays can be costly, I expect the challenge to either result in a better solution or confirm that we are taking the right course of action.

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

It would seem that the Ontario Tree Seed Facility has a unique set of skills, experience and responsibilities not easily assumed by private business. While outside the jurisdiction of a Ward Councillor in Clearview Township, I would be interested in seeing a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the facility before any irrevocable changes are made.

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

ANSWER

- Support the People with Vision – we have a lot of creative and vastly experienced people living in Clearview Township that are committed to building our community and enhancing our quality of life at a manageable cost.
- Think about the Future – today’s decisions are our legacy. We need safe and solid infrastructure, well built and maintained.
- Facilitate Excellent Service Levels – handle expectations, address or escalate issues by listening and talking to people.

=====

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire