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## 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Jason Malott

Penetanguishene

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 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?

ANSWER

Before I answer the first question, please allow me to take a moment to explain that as a 1<sup>st</sup> time candidate running for an elected position I naturally will have some studying and learning to do regarding key topics, in order to be able to offer properly informed opinions once elected. As such, some of my answers today may not be as in depth as I would prefer, but I can say to you today that I am an environmentally conscious person who fully understands that as a society we can no longer afford to recklessly make short-sighted decisions today that will have long lasting repercussions on tomorrow. And now, my answers:

Answer:

I feel that water is our most precious and vital natural resource, and one that absolutely needs to be protected. Literally all life on our planet depends on water in some manner. I believe that preserving and protecting our water, wetlands and recharge areas can best be

accomplished by having municipalities work closely with environmental advocacy groups who are efficiently making others aware of ongoing risks to our environment. I further believe that our Provincially-protected wetlands should not be encroached upon by development.

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

As a first time Candidate for election, this is one of the topics that I am continuing to become more knowledgeable about, as the duties of serving on our Council will include being a voice that contributes to decisions of a budgetary nature. As is my current understanding, development charges are used to help pay for growth-related capital expenditures. I believe that the Town Of Penetanguishene has a clear understanding of what expenses development charges can (and can't) be allocated to. I intend to be involved in helping to ensure that the development charges in our municipality are used efficiently and properly. All applications that come before our Town Council should be considered with the following questions: "Is this proposal the most beneficial way to proceed for our municipality?" and "Is there a possibility of this having long-term negative repercussions to our environment?".

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

ANSWER

I do support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. It is my current understanding that some municipalities in our region have been Provincially designated as "growth areas", with a goal of establishing higher density population in those areas. I believe that if we are able to achieve that goal while creating more affordable housing for

the residents in those “growth areas” it will make expanding the Greenbelt into Simcoe County a more achievable goal logistically.

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 disagree with the idea that Simcoe County Council should be able to overrule an objection by Springwater Township over the use of their land, especially if the land was zoned ‘Agricultural’ and is now being used for an Industrial purpose.

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

This is a subject of which I was not previously aware. I can’t currently make an informed comment on this topic, however I will say that I have difficulty imaging what factors would have led to the decision of closing this facility.

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

ANSWER

I want to see the Town of Penetanguishene do more to support its local businesses. I believe that we could become an example for other municipalities by actively promoting the retailers and independent businesses we currently have, which will then show other companies and entrepreneurs in our region that Penetanguishene is the right place to come and build your new business.

I want to be a voice for our Council that will bring a balanced viewpoint to it's future decisions. I believe that we should not shy away from taking actions that can help our municipality grow and prosper, while I also strongly believe that all decisions must be looked at from all sides. Reckless growth is simply that – reckless. Environmental factors must always be considered, and I believe that with a proactive Council that is receptive to external feedback we can accomplish our goals for our Town without hurting the environment of our future.

I intend to be an approachable representative who can serve as a bridge to help get our younger citizens more involved in our local governance. I believe that the best future for all of us is a balanced one in which more people take the time to be informed in the issues and decisions that affect us all.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire