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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Steven Fishman

Innisfil

September 21st, 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?

I for one could not agree more that we need to protect our water, wetlands, and farmlands across Innisfil. For the past several years a developer has attempted to develop wetlands at 25th sideroad, and Mapleview Drive in the north end of Innisfil. I strongly support the efforts of the local residents to stop this development. Not only would it destroy the wetlands in the area, it will result in local wells going dry, traffic congestion in the area, and killing of the wildlife. If I'm elected as the next Deputy Mayor, I will do everything in my power to stop this development from moving forward.

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?

We have to change the way that development charges are calculated. Most of the time when a developer pays the development charges, it does not cover hooking up residents who are on septic or well water to the town services. It also does not cover the full cost of drilling wells that go dry because of the new development. If a develop wants to develop in a certain area that's within 1 km of current homes that are not hooked up to town services, then the developer should pay for the costs to hooking up these long-term residents. Taxpayers in Innisfil should not be left on the hook for these costs. If the developer agrees to paying these costs, and the project does not destroy our wetlands, and wildlife, then I would support the development.

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

Simcoe County as a whole is very unique. Our land mass is nearly the size of our smallest Province. The Greenbelt is very important as we need to preserve our green spaces as much as possible. I would support the expansion of the Greenbelt as we need to slow down our growth in Simcoe County. Currently our services can't keep up with the demand for growth. By slowing down our growth we will protect our greenspaces. For example, my town of Innisfil will look like Aurora if growth is not slowed down. We currently can't keep up with the demand for development.

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?

I for one just don't get it. If there are areas that already zoned Industrial, then why place the waste handling facility in an area zoned Agricultural? I agree with Springwater Township, and this should be overturned by the next County Council. It makes no sense to me as to why this is happening.

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?

I support the review being done by the PC government, and I hope they overturn the closing ordered by the Liberal government. Again like the placing of the waste facility, this makes no sense to me as to why the Liberals would have ordered the closing.

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

1.) Lowering Property Taxes

2.) Slowing down development

3.) Complete Financial & Operational Audit of town services.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire