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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

...Alex Waters.....

...Ward 4 Innisfil.....

.....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?

ANSWER

I worked for 30 years with The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and 2 years as the National Education Coordinator for Ducks Unlimited Canada, both who's main mandate is watershed and wetland protection. So I have a good understanding of the importance of water and the need to protect it in its various habitats. All applications for any resource extraction need to go through a proper environmental assessment and get public consent before they are authorized to move 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?

ANSWER

Development charges should cover 100% costs for new development however municipalities should have some flexibility so they can negotiate with developers to

incentivize innovative and sustainable practices. When considering applications I would like to see developers address:

- 1) Walkability
- 2) Greenspace
- 3) Recreation
- 4) Sustainable residential and community features
- 5) Density

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

ANSWER

Yes. Greenbelts are import to protect habitat but more important to provide high quality connected habitat which improves biodiversity and species populations. Greenbelts also act to prevent unrestricted urban sprawl and provide destinations for local citizens seeking natural retreats with recreational activities.

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 am not that familiar with this project or area so I do not feel I should express an opinion at this time. However, generally these type of facilities should be situated in industrially zoned areas which have the proper infrastructure to deal with any of the wastes; water, air and solids that are released from the facility.

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

I have toured the seed facility in Angus many times. I think it is important to harvest native seed in order to maintain original and native species. I am concerned that climate change will dramatically impact the existing landscape. Historically native species may

naturally give way to more southern species moving north so the facility may need to adapt to the type of seeds they harvest.

Without knowing the details of the operation and what other operation exist I feel I am not in a position to provide a clear answer to the future of the facility.

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

ANSWER

- 1) Creating a Green way through the middle of ward 4 to protect local residents from flooding as well as creating connected habitat for local fauna and flora and safe walkways and cycling routes through Innisfil.
- 2) Creating a livable and walkable downtown in Alcona by getting the town to adopt more sustainable development guidelines and practices.
- 3) Making council more responsive to local residents

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire