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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

.....Barry Ward.....

Barrie....

...Sept. 23, 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

There is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas and we are doing it in Barrie. Over the years, the municipality has acquired much of the land around both Kempenfelt Bay and Little Lake and left much of it in its natural state. On the north shore of Kempenfelt Bay, we've even restored much of the land, which had been home to boathouses, to its natural state. Whenever development takes place, we always acquire the environmentally sensitive areas as part of the approval process and zone them environmental protection so they can't be developed in the future. We spent millions of dollars acquiring property along the creeks in Barrie and restoring them to their natural state. We have spent millions more opening up waterways which were buried, something which prevents flooding, restores a fish and wildlife habitat and improves the water quality in Kempenfelt Bay. We spent \$100 million upgrading our wastewater treatment plant with the result it has far exceeded the phosphorus guidelines set out by the province. We have plan to upgrade our stormwater management ponds and have started to implement it as budgets allow.

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

In Barrie, we are not only charging the full development charges allowed but we have also reached an agreement with every developer in the lands annexed from Innisfil to pay thousands of dollars extra so that the true cost of development is covered. For me, a residential development is a net benefit for the community if it has a good mix of housing types, walkable neighbourhoods and nearby services.

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 generally, not just Simcoe County. The Greenbelt helps contain urban sprawl and protects natural areas.

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

As a Barrie councillor, I think it is not my place to comment on another jurisdiction's decisions when they don't have a direct effect on my municipality. I have also not ready all the reports justifying the county's decision, only read about it through the media.

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 don't feel qualified to answer the question because I don't know enough about the reasons for recommending the plan be closed.

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

ANSWER

Affordable housing, which is probably the most serious problem facing Barrie right now.

Continuing to improve the quality of life for Barrie residents by encouraging job growth, building community facilities, getting people out of their homes through the development of sidewalks, trails and parks, enhancing public spaces and creating the type of city where business wants to be.

Dealing with traffic: the speed, the volume and the noise. It is the No. 1 complaint I hear about.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire