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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Dan Davidson

Innisfil

Sept. 26, 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 have gotten involved in protecting water, wetlands and recharge areas. I have worked with the South Simcoe Streams Network, I worked alongside Nottawasaga Futures to restore lakes, streams and shorelines as well as build opportunities for business to flourish. Being responsible stewards of the environment protects a priceless asset that cannot be replaced – our lands and our water. When examining a development application, I will work to understand the environmental, economic and social impacts before making a decision. I will ask the tough questions to get the answers needed, not just for me, but for residents and for council to ensure we make the best decision possible.

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

Ontario regulations regarding what costs are eligible to be covered limit what a municipality can include in its development charges; therefore, development charges never cover the cost of new development. In Innisfil, which is forecast to grow to 65,000 by 2031, it is imperative that we cover all the eligible costs. Local taxpayers cannot afford any other scenario. Accomplishing this requires keen oversight of Town staff to ensure any proposals are analysed for a growth component and development charge revenue is used to cover those associated costs. When assessing whether a proposed project is a net benefit for the community, we must consider the location of the project – its environmental and social impacts, both short and long-term – as well as the tax and development charges revenue, the potential for jobs and the potential for community partnerships and investment. This is a complex answer, but building a sustainable, healthy community is a complex task.

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

ANSWER

Innisfil has several surface water recharge areas and looking beyond Innisfil in Simcoe County, we must also work to protect moraines, such as the Oro Moraine. Moraines serve as filters for water. In my work with the South Simcoe Streams Network, I understand the importance of protecting not just our drinking water but our streams and wetlands. When Ontario hosts open houses to discuss the feedback gathered from the consultation document, I will attend the sessions, review input, listen to the feedback gathered so far and listen and work with local citizens to protect our environment.

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

This is an issue I need to be brought up to speed on. It's a complex issue that has included years of studies and reviews. When elected as Deputy Mayor, I will examine the reports

and studies and consult with citizens before I decide what position to take on how to protect our environment and responsibly manage our waste.

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

When elected, I will review reports and consult with those who know more about the history and the rationale of the decision. As an elected official, I will have more access to information, which is why I want to invest the time to investigate before I take a position.

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

ANSWER

My top three priorities:

- Holding the line on taxes: Value for your money.
- Managing growth and promoting sustainability.
- Investing in infrastructure and ending gridlock.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire