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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Deb Doherty
www.votedebdoherty.ca

Municipality

Collingwood

Date:

October 4

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?

Yes this is a very high priority for me. I will support policies that strictly protect our natural heritage, in particular wetlands.

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?

I actually disagree that development charges don't cover all costs of new development. They do cover initial infrastructure costs in Collingwood. The cost to the municipality comes with the maintenance of this infrastructure. Further, development charges are reassessed every 5-10 years, to ensure that they are covering infrastructure costs, and in the Town of Collingwood a new development charge study will be implemented within the next two years.

In my view a development is a benefit to a municipality if it is thoughtfully designed, active transportation focused, is located close to amenities (i.e., a “complete” neighbourhood), and provides a range of housing opportunities. Density should be complimentary to the surrounding community and high priority placed on preservation of trees and greenspace.

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

Yes I do support this, very much. Any initiative that protects greenspace and agriculture and helps mitigate the effects of climate change is a benefit to all of our communities.

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 am not familiar with all of the details of this plan. I have spoken with our County Council representative, and I understand that the selection process was rigorous, that over 100 sites were evaluated on a wide range of criteria and ultimately this is the site that was chosen. I don't feel qualified at this time to comment further.

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 think this is a very important service to assist in the retention of our green spaces, and to foster conservation of our natural heritage.

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

a) Review of Development Standards and Urban Design guidelines to ensure that infill residential developments are constructed with minimal disruption of the surrounding neighbourhoods and natural heritage, and that design and density will integrate with the existing community. I would like to see new developments be required to provide a proportion of affordable housing via mechanisms that Council and the Town can put in place

b) Continued implementation of guiding municipal priorities – the Community Based Strategic Plan, the Waterfront Masterplan, and the Recreation Masterplan.

c) Develop a medium to long-range capital plan to accommodate major future expenses, including restoration of the Collingwood Terminals, Town Hall Expansion, and a new multi-use facility.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire