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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

...Debbie Levy.....

.....Penetanguishene.....

...Oct. 3, 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

Protecting our water is key to our town's sustainability. We have only one water supply in Penetanguishene, with no solid plan for backup. Our previous wells were found to be contaminated in 1991. Around the same time it was determined that our bay was listed as one of the more contaminated bodies of water on the Great Lakes. We have done great work, along with our partners to clean up the bay and protect our water supply. We have two Provincially Significant wetlands within our town, and they are protected. I recently voted against a development that would destroy a smaller, seasonal wetland, home to many reptiles, and part of a diverse 30 acres forest filled with birds, bats and a wide array of mammals. We won the vote and are fully committed to following through on the OMB challenge.

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

With our treasurer's help, we closely monitor the funds in our development charges account. At budget time we have a clear understanding of how much of a project can be paid for from the DC account.

I have a long history in Penetanguishene of advocating for mixed housing, meaningful employment lands. More recently, as a designated growth area I have succeeded in enshrining smaller lot sizes, secondary suites, secondary dwellings and increased density in order to provide the jobs and housing in an urban area, thus protecting farmland and forest from development. As long as the infrastructure is in place and important, and we do not destroy valuable ecosystems, that is a net benefit.

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

ANSWER

Absolutely I do. I will always oppose development on farmland and forests. The whole point of the province's growth plan is to increase density in serviced urban areas. I truly believe that agri-business will become a huge part of Ontario's future. I am Penetanguishene's rep on the Economic Development Corporation of North Simcoe, a group which fully embraces and supports our farmers.

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 opposed to any use of agricultural land that is not directly related to crops. The elimination of the OMB and the move towards LPACs will eliminate challenges to land use if the zoning is not appropriate. Finally!

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 had no idea this facility existed. As our climate changes it will be important to have the ability to regenerate with native species that can thrive in our area. I have a son who is a PhD with two post docs in tree science at the molecular level. He runs several tree research programs at UBC, the islands and in Alaska and is my expert on forestry and best practices.

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

ANSWER

Slow, sustainable growth.

Protecting our water.

Job creation.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire