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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

John Olthuis

Barrie Ward 10

September 25, 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?

It is imperative that we protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from excessive development. Development seems to be inevitable but we must be cautious and do what we can to reduce impact. Aggregates are considered a natural resource and follow strict guidelines. Having said that, extraction can expose an aquifer and make it susceptible to contamination and we must ensure that proper procedures are followed and proper remediation of the site is used once the aggregate has been extracted.

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?

Developers often complain about escalating development charges but I believe it is imperative that all costs associated with new developments be paid by the developer rather than the taxpayer. When considering an application, we must

assure that the development has as little impact on the environment as possible and provide the most benefit to the community.

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

Greenbelt expansion can protect additional lands from development but there is pressure to reduce the lands that are protected now. We must continue to protect these resources, where possible, perhaps creating additional legislation to do so. I support expanding the Greenbelt where we have the opportunity to do so.

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?

There are alternatives to landfill such as energy from waste that require less land and have less impact on the environment. Land use zoning can be changed with the stroke of a pen. Careful consideration must be taken to ensure the lands used are best suited for this purpose and precautions are taken to prevent possible contamination of aquifers.

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?

The Tree Seed Facility has provided a vital service but I believe it has fallen into disrepair. A tree seed facility in the province is a necessity but I’m unsure if the existing facility is adequate or a newer facility should be constructed.

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

I consider myself an environmentalist so reducing the impact of development on the environment is a high priority for me. Growth is inevitable but it must be smart growth with more affordable housing. Better value for our tax dollar and better, more effective communication on Council are my other priorities.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire