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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date:</u>
...Phil Brennan.....	Severn.....	Oct 8, 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?

We first of all need to ensure that the current planning tools at our disposal are used properly - including participation up front in the upcoming OP review exercise. We also need to lobby to control companies that are taking bottled water and to ensure that water sources and significant wetlands and rivers have priority protection over aggregate operations and other intrusive activities. It's about balance. Private wells in Severn need protection and current source water plans only protect municipal sources. Time to implement the rest of the Walkerton report.

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?

Existing taxpayers should not have to pay for new developments - they have enough to pay for in replacing existing infrastructure where they live. Development charges need to reflect this reality.

When considering a development application, the proposal should have had a truly effective EIA for starters and should be consistent with sound planning that fully considers the nature and culture of the area proposed for development. No more Midhurst's please.

Having said that, green energy proposals, waste management facilities and aggregates are necessary and need to be sited based on good science, not just emotion, not just ownership. We can't always please everyone but we need to listen carefully and with a view to finding solutions before we accept developments of this nature.

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

ANSWER

Yes I do. It will provide better protection for our important wetlands, natural heritage areas and farmlands than current planning tools.

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 once managed a regional forest (York) and fully appreciate their importance to our communities. Having said that they are not sacred ground - their alternate use should be a last resort and the loss of land should be compensated for by securing alternative high quality natural areas that are highly protected and that provide an overall environmentally greater benefit. And the area to replace a loss should be much bigger and

more diverse as a minimum. I believe that such a switch should have the endorsement of at least one highly respected conservation agency or NGO to be acceptable.

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

We need an evidence-based review of what will be lost if it is closed - and then we need solutions to stop that loss.

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

ANSWER

1. Effective economic plan to attract suitable businesses to Severn and create good jobs, particularly for our youth.
2. Reasonable taxes balanced with high quality services.
3. The development of an effective environmental plan that includes local action on climate change.

Note: The township's Strategic Plan calls for the development of the two plans - I want to ensure that it gets done - and that they are not a shelf documents - they need to be progressive with challenging but achievable targets.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire