

Candidate Name: Tony Veltri, candidate for Mayor of New Tecumseth. September 21, 2018

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

We don't need to "what if" in New Tecumseth. We have live examples. New Tecumseth remains a fast growing municipality, and while most of it has taken place in Alliston over the past two decades, residential development is fully underway in Tottenham.

New Tecumseth reaches into the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine, and in Beeton natural forces of weather, particularly heavy rain incidents, are being compounded by new growth and old drainage infrastructure. Urban Tottenham suffers drinking water quality issues, and for one no good reason or other, an explanation why that remains the case has never been made over the past decade or so. A pipeline connection linking us to the same source is moving forward finally, but the sense of urgency remains absent.

No larger culprit of all things wrong is taking place at the Tottenham airfield next to the retirement community of Tecumseth Pines on Hwy 9. Its been a years long dramatic comedy which began under the guise of a hobbyist runway expansion, but can no longer disguise it's a money making hand over fist fill operation. And this monster money machine has been coddled and treated with kid-gloves. This council's direction has been mostly to throw paper terms at this beast, tap its toes and wave some fingers. We had to wait until they discovered "free cyanide" in recent test samples several months in a row to finally act with some authority. I'll end this with a direct statement from

["New Tecumseth, Caledon & King NTCK Citizens for Clean Water](#)

September 19 at 3:45 PM · One of the poorest decisions made by the current sitting Council to enable a large scale fill operation on the [Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation](#) This is not a federally regulated aerodrome, this clause was removed in 2014

We paid for "qualified" legal advice to share with the Town, they ignored us and just signed the agreement...."

It's absolutely critical these kinds of environmental abuses, whose benefits are only to those that profit from them, are dealt with swiftly and with all means at our disposal to send clear messages they won't be tolerated and there will be consequences.

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

This begins the same way as in the first question. We have active files currently working through the approvals process, whose proponents are also working through the updated official plan to make changes to their initially approved development proposals.

The consistent theme is they're asking to alter their commercial, industrial, and institutional zoned lands to residential. I am absolutely opposed to flipping already designated economic, job creating, quality assessment properties to permit developers to squeeze even more homes on smaller lots because they get away with it in the GTA. There is no "net benefit" to the community in those scenarios. They compound problems on our already overburdened road networks, and our hospital.

I believe development charges should be extended to include hospitals, public transit and waste management and I will ask support from council to make that an issue for circulation and support from municipalities across the province. We all share similar pressures from growth but no funding support to deal with them.

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

ANSWER

I support all measures that protect the environment and I support any expansion of the Greenbelt that does not ignore the rights of a property owner – and I will qualify the definition of "property owner. I would exclude from that conversation a property owner who purchased it as a development interest/land bank speculator. In New Tecumseth I would expect any expansion of the Greenbelt would take place through rural and agricultural properties. As such, I could only support its expansion with guaranteed provisions in the policy that it not harm and or hamper any farming – agri-business operations underway at the time of expansion, nor restrict their ability to grow. Anything new would then have to conform to the new policies.

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

In your question you include "needed" in brackets because the discussion isn't about the "need" as we all know it is, but the "where." At this point, a lot of money has been spent on staff, consultants, generating reports, related to the facilities themselves, and the various studies required for the extensive approvals process. The County knows there is opposition to the location, and it's not quietly going away.

Frankly, I believe the lower tier municipalities should be given the opportunity to opt out of the County waste management partnership. A community like New Tecumseth should have the opportunity to investigate whether contracting out its own curbside collection for waste, recycling and organics can improve collection

services within the community, and at a better rate than the general levy we pay now. Garbage collection is one of the biggest complaint generators of all services and the first line of complaint is always to the local councillors whose only advice can be, "call the County."

Waste has become a commodity to a greater extent since when landfilling was our only real option for disposal. Allowing municipalities like New Tecumseth to opt out leaves the County with more capacity to continue the coordinated services with some of our smaller municipalities. And in that case, such large new structures may not be necessary, and that smaller operations would fit in industrially zones areas.

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

Quite frankly, any answer I provide on this would not be of any help because my knowledge of the issue is what I have followed in the media. That said, the fact a wide variety of groups, organizations, and citizens are opposed to its closure, whose only reason for it appears to be monetary, tells me clearly it's important to keep it operating, and that's good enough for me.

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

ANSWER

1) Stopping any further progress on the estimated \$15 million new administration centre at the former Alliston Union Public School site. It's a fiscal disaster waiting to happen because of the financing structure. To pay for this over-developed centre, it is proposed to drain reserves by at least \$7 million, reserve accounts Town auditors have already warned previously are too low. Most significant, a minimum of \$8 million (which will no doubt increase during construction) that would be financed by long term debenture. And because it is not a development charges eligible project, that debenture will be paid from property taxes. There is no other source. No real options were investigated that could solve the crowding issue at the Alliston administration centre, while still being more fiscally responsible. I believe it is worth considering opening municipal office space in Tottenham so that each of the communities will have direct municipal presence.

2) The connection of Tottenham to the water pipeline as soon as possible, giving the matter the sense of urgency that has been lacking for several years now. And for no good reason anyone can explain. Because the connection is between Beeton and Tottenham, there should be opportunities to have several components of the project running concurrently. I also support - whether it's a temporary rate reduction or something akin to it, that recognizes Tottenham should not be paying the same rate for an inferior quality of water, on a separate

system, than Alliston and Beeton, until they are connected. What form that takes will be thoroughly discussed.

3) Reaffirming opposition to to the 15,000 unit Cappuccitti Mattamy Homes subdivision proposal between Alliston and Beeton. An application that is currently in limbo at the OMB, awaiting the opportunity to come to a settlement arrangement with Simcoe County, and our current mayor, who has been the only consistent supporter of this mega development proposal from its very beginning. This proposal would decimate New Tecumseth, add to an already overburdened road and services infrastructure. It does not represent smart growth. I support intensification in the urban cores and within the settlement areas. We need more emphasis on development that creates direct economic benefits in terms of meaningful employment opportunities, and valued assessment.