

Don Allen / Mayor / Springwater / October 4 2018

I feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from being permanently damaged by development or other activities in the municipality. Springwater has some of the purest water in the world and it must be protected and maintained through current legislation and supervision. I will continue to support the protection of water through existing controls and legislation to accomplish this and review and advocate against any negative activities affecting water and seek the best solutions to prevent and minimize this.

I will make sure that all costs that should be paid by development charges under existing legislation are covered. When considering an application, I will look at total costs versus total benefit both in the near term and the long term. The development application will have to reconcile with the new Growth Plan. Net benefit will consider all aspects of the environment and what the development adds and complements to the surrounding community and the financial and other costs to the community.

I support protecting the environment and protecting farmland. I don't want to see prime farm acreage decrease so there needs to be a method of helping the farmers grow and improve their operations and realize proper value for their land, in a fashion that it can be maintained as farmland. Once the Provincial Government reveals its next steps and plans for the Greenbelt, I will study this carefully and formulate my approach to these next steps. I do not want to see over-regulation.

I feel that the ERRC site and timing of moving forward with this should be reviewed. Moving forward on this site should be suspended until an updated feasibility study and business case are completed including comparing developing a project such as this at this time to renewing new external contracts to manage our waste, recycling and green bin handling. Increasing producer responsibilities for dealing with recycling and uncertainty regarding the technology are cause for delay moving forward until options are clearer.

I feel that the Ontario Tree Seed Facility should remain open and I support the Government's initiative to review the closure.

October 12 2018

My top three priorities are residential development, business development and community development.

Residential development involves leading negotiations of all the conditions of the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP) to obtain the best results for Springwater residents, including the Environmental Assessment issues, Long Range Financial Plan update and negotiations of financing and cost responsibility for the MSP development to minimize negative impacts to existing residents. It also involves negotiating the progress of other developments in Springwater to ensure they progress in a positive fashion for the Township. I support good development in Springwater which benefits the existing beauty and features of this Township.

Business development includes helping existing businesses be able to flourish and grow. This includes real focus on re-vitalizing the business environment in Elmvale. It also includes achieving tangible progress in attracting new business to Springwater.

Community development involves real progress in each of the Springwater communities to address their issues and improve services and the enjoyment of living in the communities. This includes improvements to infrastructure and facilities. It also included addressing issues that keep arising such as traffic calming and improvement, broadband improvement, ATV, motorbike and snowmobile usage, by-law review, cannabis legislation implementation and many more.

All of this will need to be handled in a fiscally responsible fashion to ensure that tax increases are reasonable and that the Township does not incur excessive debt.