



Springwater Township – Candidate Questionnaire 2014

We hope that, as a candidate for Springwater Council, you will take the time to complete the following survey. Please return no later than **Monday, September 22nd at 4 pm**. Your responses will help us determine who to recommend to our many supporters, both in Midhurst and the Township at large, for each contested seat on Council. Answers will be rated according to our organizational values. The names of our chosen candidates, together with comments from the MRA board, will be published in the Springwater News. All completed questionnaires will appear on our website after the deadline has passed. Those not received by the deadline will be listed as “no response”. Thank you in advance for your time and your participation.

Platform

What do you believe should be the **top 5 priorities** for Council? (*in order of priority*)

1. Cancel the MSP.
2. Create a Council with strong leadership and a clear vision to maintain our township as a community of small communities.
3. Establish an effective economic committee with emphasis on promoting local businesses and trades.
4. Continue to support our three existing libraries and improve the Minesing facility.
5. Work with the City of Barrie, Simcoe County and the Province to preserve Springwater Park.

What steps do you intend to take or recommend to council in order to achieve **NUMBER 1**?

I will support a motion as soon as possible after Council is elected to ask the provincial government to rescind the special rule for the Midhurst Secondary Plan.

Transparency and Accountability

	YES	NO
1. Are you in favour of appointing the Ontario Ombudsman to oversee Springwater Council?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you agree with the following improvements to council meetings?		
a) More frequent council meetings?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Question Periods that are not limited to the agenda?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Later start times to improve public accessibility?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Publishing agendas one full week in advance?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Mandatory Question Period for Special meetings?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) All questions asked during Question Period to be recorded in full, answered in a timely manner either orally or in writing and placed on the public record	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you support requiring elected representatives to keep their constituents regularly informed via email, newspaper articles, town halls and/or social media?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are you in favour of NVCA board representatives providing monthly reports to	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

council on decisions and actions of the NVCA board, with such reports to be placed on the public record?		
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Growth & Development

	YES	NO
1. If elected, with regard to the Midhurst Secondary Plan, will you support:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Stopping it in its current form?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Lobbying the provincial government to rescind the special rule?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Lobbying the provincial government to help stop the MSP?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Creating a new plan that puts farmland and source water protection first?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Helping to establish a moratorium on the MSP until all financial and environmental studies have been completed?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. If elected, will you support the following measures to manage development:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. Extra levies or charges to make growth pay for growth?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Establishing a Planning Committee to oversee and guide the work of the Planning and Public Works departments?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Ensuring future development prioritizes farmland preservation and source water protection?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Creating master plans for heritage areas, areas of archeological significance and key agricultural hubs?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Responsibility & Agriculture

	YES	NO
1. Do you think Springwater is doing enough to protect and enhance its natural environment? Comments: Although I commend the current Council for the structure at the water pipe north of Elmvale, I think more should have been done to save Springwater Park. Also, the MSP should never have been allowed to move forward because of its location on Class 1 farmland and its threat to the Minesing wetlands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
2. Do you support making Springwater Township a “Food and Water First” township? I am also committed to declaring Springwater Township a “Blue Community”, one which recognizes water as a human right.	X	
3. Are you satisfied that Springwater is doing enough to preserve its farmland from development?	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

<p>Comments: The MSP should never have been allowed to proceed since it would be built on Class 1 farmland.</p>		
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Leadership and Governance

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you support independent peer reviews, paid for by Springwater, of all reports critical to strategic planning? Comments: As long as the cost of such peer reviews is not prohibitive.</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Are you in favour of establishing a Finance Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councillors to oversee and guide the work of senior staff?</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Are you in favour of establishing a Planning Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councillors to oversee and guide the work of the Planning and Public Works departments?</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Are you in favour of establishing a lobby registry?</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5. Does your campaign accept union or corporate donations? I will be receiving a \$250 donation from the Simcoe County Elementary Teachers Federation, of which I am a member.</p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments:

Name: Katy Austin