



## 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

1. What do you believe should be the **top 5 priorities** for Council? (*in order of priority*)  
**MSP Control** – I will co-lead an initiative with the Mayor to establish Council support and agreement to conduct a complete review of all aspects of the MSP, to become aware of all of the details which led to its current status and the implications of this. I will then use the results of this, with Council, to communicate with the taxpayers and gain support to develop an initiative to approach the Provincial Government seeking reversal of the special rule, for the main reason that it contravenes the Government’s Places To Grow legislation. If a complete reversal is not possible, for agreed upon reasons, I will lead Council in developing an ongoing strategy to significantly reduce the scope and timing of the development, to bring it in line with acceptable growth targets and plans for Springwater. I will ensure that the whole process of this involves public information, input and support. There will be no more in camera meetings and lack of or late or minimal, evasive communication with other members of Council and the public regarding this whole matter.
2. **Fiscal and operational improvement** – I will form and lead a Finance Committee to streamline and improve the budgeting process, financial reporting , finding cost efficiencies, lower or eliminate tax increases and help provide better service to constituents. My CA and Trustee training and business and board experience will assist with this initiative.
3. **Governance** – I will create leadership to establish better communication, trust, honesty, accountability and cohesiveness within Council.
4. **Community initiatives** – I will work with the Springwater communities to identify, prioritize and develop strategies to progress initiatives important to them.
5. **Environmental plan** I will encourage Council to develop a committee, including external qualified members, which will use the upcoming environmental assessment resulting in the MSP process, in conjunction with other studies already completed or necessary to complete, to develop an overall environmental plan for the Township. Input will be received in establishing this from environmental groups in the Township.

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

- Work with the Mayor and Councillors to develop strategy detail and timing;
- Conduct a meeting of the taxpayers to receive input and support;
- Obtain Council approval to proceed with the initiative;

- Mayor and Deputy Mayor and interested Councillors form a working group to study details and develop a strategy to approach the Government;
- Approach the Government to negotiate a reversal or significant revision to the project.
- Report back to Council and the taxpayers and finalize next steps based on the negotiations.

## Transparency and Accountability

	YES	NO
1. Are you in favour of appointing the Ontario Ombudsman to oversee Springwater Council?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you agree with the following improvements to council meetings?		
a) More frequent council meetings?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Question Periods that are not limited to the agenda?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Later start times to improve public accessibility?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Publishing agendas one full week in advance?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Mandatory Question Period for Special meetings?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are you in favour of NVCA board representatives providing monthly reports to council on decisions and actions of the NVCA board, with such reports to be placed on the public record?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Lobbying the provincial government to rescind the special rule?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Lobbying the provincial government to help stop the MSP?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Creating a new plan that puts farmland and source water protection first?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Ensuring future development prioritizes farmland preservation and source water protection?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Creating master plans for heritage areas, areas of archeological significance and key agricultural hubs?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Responsibility & Agriculture

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you think Springwater is doing enough to protect and enhance its natural environment? <b>Comments:</b> See comments in Priorities (above)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Do you support making Springwater Township a “Food and Water First” township?</p>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Are you satisfied that Springwater is doing enough to preserve its farmland from development? <b>Comments:</b> A committee comprised of councilors and qualified external taxpayers should be formed to review current farmland inventory and needs and develop ideas and recommendations to preserve farmland using input from best practices in this area elsewhere in the world.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>

## Leadership and Governance

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you support independent peer reviews, paid for by Springwater, of all reports critical to strategic planning? <b>Comments:</b> I think it is the responsibility of an efficient Council to commission the right required external reports based on an impartial open tendering process. Council needs to review and discuss each these reports and develop recommendations and conclusions. To the extent external independent experts are required to assist Council in its interpretations and decisions regarding these reports, Council should be authorized to hire such experts, again with the proper approval process by Council and within financial parameters.</p>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Are you in favour of establishing a Finance Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councilors to oversee and guide the work of senior staff?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I as Deputy Mayor would chair the newly created finance committee with one or more councilors participating on the committee. My training as a CPA, Trustee and Certified Fraud Examiner and the experience I have had on similar committees would result in a better financial planning and budgeting process and regular reporting of financial matters to Council. I would welcome the involvement on the committee of at least one external qualified taxpayer member.</li> </ul>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Are you in favour of establishing a Planning Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councilors to oversee and guide the work of the Planning and Public Works departments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would recommend the Mayor chair the newly created planning committee with one or more councilors participating on the committee</li> </ul>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

and reporting its progress to Council at each meeting. I would welcome the involvement on the committee of at least one external qualified taxpayer member.		
4. Are you in favour of establishing a lobby registry? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should establish rules and guidelines with respect to any initiatives to lobby Council and how interest groups may present to Council, including complete and open records of any initiatives Any other lobbying would not be allowed to any members of Council.</li> </ul>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Does your campaign accept union or corporate donations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>

**Additional Comments:**

Comments I have received from different councilors and many knowledgeable taxpayers indicate by a large percentage that the present Council has not been running the township as an effective board of directors. Effective leadership is lacking and this has resulted in a Council which does not function and lead as well as it should. This has resulted as well in some service issues which taxpayers have had with Council and staff. We need a Council that works as an effective team together and with the Township staff to provide excellent service to its tax paying constituents. Having a Mayor and Deputy Mayor with extensive business and financial training and experience, who have run businesses of different sizes and dealt with bankers, lawyers, consultants and other stakeholders, would significantly improve how Council works together and with its constituents and improve progress in Springwater Township.

**Name:**

Don Allen CPA CA CIRP  
Deputy Mayor Candidate