

October 12, 2006

Dear Municipal Candidate:

Local farmers are looking to our political leaders to work with us and develop conditions that attract investment and create a favourable economic setting in rural Ontario. In order to sustain vibrant communities and a vibrant agricultural industry, we want you to consider the benefits or the damage your decisions can create for the Ontario farmer and rural communities when setting policies, developing programs and making decisions.

Farmers and the communities they live in require your attention and serious reinvestment.

The farm community contributes to the local and provincial economy, the rural landscape and the health and safety of our citizens. The work of farmers and related agricultural activities employ many people in our community. This work contributes to the economy of our municipality and the province of Ontario every year. The farmers' investment and hard work on environmental improvements and food safety benefit all of the citizens of our municipality, from sustaining water quality to traceability programs that ensure safe food.

Ontario's farm strength is evident in the links that connect farms to our fellow citizens and the local economy. Our residents pay a smaller fraction of their incomes for food than others in the developed world.

The work of farmers makes this possible.

The Norfolk Federation of Agriculture is a general farm policy organization and through the Ontario Federation of Agriculture represents 38,000 individual farmers and over 36 commodity organizations in Ontario. OFA policies are developed and approved by our membership through our county federations and commodity board representatives.

We want you to feel free to call on us for advice and assistance when you are making decisions that affect farmers in our municipality.

Please find attached several questions that we would like you to answer and return to us. At a recent Board meeting, a decision was made that your plates were already full with All Candidates Meetings. Therefore, we have compiled a list of questions to answer at your leisure. If you would please return them to the Norfolk Federation of

Agriculture by October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the very latest it would be greatly appreciated. The questions and answers will be posted on our website, local papers and on our local radio station, for our local members and the public.

We appreciate your time and assistance with this mater, and look forward to hearing from you. Happy campaigning and good luck!

Yours in Agriculture,

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## Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates

**Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!**

- Why are you running for office?  
➤
- Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.  
➤
- Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.  
➤
- What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?  
➤
- Where does agriculture fit into the economic development priorities for the municipality/region?  
➤
- What is your position on the development of on-farm, value-added activities?  
➤
- Do you recognize the authority of the province in regulating manure and other nutrient sources either generated or applied in your municipality?  
➤
- Are you willing to support a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farm lands?  
➤
- How do you propose to encourage on-farm, value-added agricultural enterprises and address the excessive property taxes currently imposed on these activities?  
➤
- Do you know if development charges apply to agricultural structures in this municipality? If development charges do apply, describe how you would support standardizing the application of development charges to prevent inequitable treatment.  
➤
- What are the key water management issues in the area?  
➤

- Do you support the need for municipalities to 'take control' of the area immediately adjacent (e.g. 100 meters) to a wellhead or surface water intake, by either purchasing or leasing the land?
- 
- How will you ensure that individual's owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?
- 
- What funding is available to an individual farm business wishing to improve existing practices? What assistance will the municipality provide?
- 
- How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?
-

## Questions for Norfolk Mayor Candidates

**Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!**

- What, in your view, are the major issues affecting the community?
- 
- What are the key economic, social, environmental concerns, in the municipality?
- 
- Where will you look for advice on agricultural issues or any issue that could affect agriculture?
- 
- What plans do you have for building the local farm and business base?
- 
- What are the implications of non-farm rural development in productive agricultural areas?
- 
- How would you propose to consult with the farm community in the development or review of the Official Plan or zoning by-laws?
- 
- Do you recognize that a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) necessary for a Building Permit application refers to an NMP and NMS as defined by the NMA Regulations, not the municipality?
- 
- What role do you think a municipality should play within the current regulatory regime on pesticide safety?
- 
- Are you willing to support a by-law to provide a reduction or refund of taxes that are unduly burdensome to a taxpayer?
- 
- How would you ensure inclusion of value-added farm enterprises in their economic development plan?
- 
- Do you know if development charges apply to agricultural structures in this municipality? If development charges do apply, describe how you would support standardizing the application of development charges to prevent inequitable treatment.
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- What priority do you assign water resource protection for the municipality?
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- What level of financial support should be available to farmers who are required through a Risk Management Plan to incur capital costs, and/or management costs, and/or ongoing maintenance costs to protect a municipal drinking water supply?

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- How will you site future municipal water supplies? The future level of protection may make it undesirable to offer land to sell for this purpose, how will this be overcome?
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- How would you allocate water at times of shortages? What priority will farm practices such as watering livestock and irrigating crops be given in the allocation of water, at times of shortages?
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## **Questions for Norfolk Candidates for the Offices of School Board Members**

**Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!**

- Why are you running for office?  
➤
- How will you ensure that rural students will not be negatively impacted by decisions you make?  
➤
- Will you consider putting guidelines in place regarding busing times?  
➤
- Given the fact that schools in rural communities serve several purposes, what priority will you give to the value of these schools?  
➤
- Do you understand what your role as a school trustee will be? Do you understand relationship between the role of the school board and the role of the province?  
➤
- To what extent have the needs of rural areas in the development and operation of local child care plans been addressed?  
➤
- Are child care programs/services co-ordinated with other family/children services delivered in the municipality/district?  
➤
- How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?  
➤
- What additional support/tools are required by the municipalities to deliver child care programs that meet rural needs?  
➤