

Norfolk Federation of Ag

From: "Norfolk Federation of Agriculture" <nfa@kwic.com>
To: "Sheila White" <nfa@kwic.com>
Sent: November 6, 2006 9:30 AM
Subject: Fw: QUESTIONAIRE FROM JOHN HUNT

QUESTIONAIRE FROM JOHN HUNT

-----I am running for Ward 1 because I believe I can make a difference and change is needed. local concerns are not being addressed. Spending must be controlled. A strong voice for the community is required. No more expensive studies instead lets use the experience of the people.

-----Impact of agriculture in Ward 1 is a split between Tourism on the one hand and the local farm on the other. Assistance for local farms from all levels of Government should be addressed as we are creating more and more red tape regulations this becomes a heavy burden for the Agricultural sector.

-----Economic impact factors affect all agricultural business's. Its obvious as the farmer suffers economic hardships it follows the local suppliers to the farms are also forced to control spending and in turn the whole community suffers.

-----agricultural land use has many issues attached. Concerns then come out about diversifying parts of the land for other uses even to sever off parcels of land to assist farmers with the cash flow problems. I have no problem in reviewing zoning restrictions to allow farmers to explore new ways to keep the farm viable

-----Agriculture has to remain a priority for Norfolk County . It has made Norfolk what it is today. I think it would be a mistake not keep it high on the list

----My position on the developement of farm value added activities is any thing that can help the farm sustain as a viable business I would support

-----The authority of the Province to regulate manure and or nutrients depends on the Regulations themselves ie winter spreading and stockpiling for composting . The concept of Short list of regulatory standards imposed on livestock operations is unacceptable. Phasing in Nutrient Regulations requires flexibility bearing in mind the financial hardships incurred by the farmer.

-----As for a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farms I am willing to consider all avenues to assist farmers but I need more input on this proposal and how it will impact the taxpayers in Ward 1

-----Zoning as I mentioned before needs to be addressed and reformulated to assist farm needs.

-----Development charges to agricultural structures not applicable to Norfolk county as they are exempt

-----Key Water management issues all appear to relate to Justice O'Connors reports and regulations and are continually changing . I believe that if the government wants total compliance with all the recomendations put forth then a compensation package should be approved as it would benifit everyone.....

-----At this time I donot support totally the need to take control of wellheads at this time. Access should be granted by the farmers ie right of way with some payment to the farmer for access but the farmer controls the land.....

-----The farmer as above should remain in control of the adjacent lands.....

-----The municipality may get involved in financial assistance if the plan by the farmer impacts the citizens in a positive manner ie creating a more enviromental efficient farm base (woodlots etc)

-----The municipal , provincial and federal programs are falling short at this time in assistance to the family farm more needs to be done to assist farmers in transition. I believe the farmers have the experience to advise what is the best course of action not some out of area study consultant.....

-----Thank you for your patience I hope the above will suffice at this time I intend to become more knowlegable in these issues with the assistance of your organization...

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