

## Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates

Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!

.. Why are you running for office?

..

I feel that I have the experience, commitment and desire to make our county better and help create a positive change.

.. Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.

.. Impact of agriculture is huge. The agricultural business is facing challenging times and we must as a county and individuals do what it takes to offer our support. Commodity prices are low and the world market is at play and farmers are being put in a corner with no where to go.

.. Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.

..

The economic impact is tremendous. There are jobs, shopping, major vehicle purchases, land transactions, etc. Everyone benefits from economic prosperity of the agricultural sector.

.. What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?

..

Extremely high. We must certainly respect and maintain the concept of preserving agricultural land base but new ideas must be initiated to allow for additional revenue streams.

.. Where does agriculture fit into the economic development priorities for the municipality/region?

.. Agriculture ranks as number one priority.

.. What is your position on the development of on-farm, value-added activities?

..

I support the idea fully and encourage all incentives that will help generate

dollars to the agricultural sector.

.. Do you recognize the authority of the province in regulating manure and other nutrient sources either generated or applied in your municipality?

..

Yes I recognize it and understand it's principles.

.. Are you willing to support a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farm lands?

..

I believe I can.

.. How do you propose to encourage on-farm, value-added agricultural enterprises and address the excessive property taxes currently imposed on these activities?

..

I believe the planning process is too restrictive and must be streamlined to allow for more of these enterprises. These businesses should be taxed at farm rates not industrial or commercial rates. Farm business should be farm taxed.

.. 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.

..

I believe that current format allows for development charges on farm structure ie: bunkhouses. This is an unnecessary grab of cash. This one way we can be of financial assistance to our agricultural sector.

.. What are the key water management issues in the area?

..

Quantity and quality. We have one of the best aquifers of water supply both underground and surface in the province. Farmers must be allowed access and not so regulated to prevent proper irrigation of crops. Farmers operate on common sense and have a good judgement on water demand.

.. 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?  
.. Not sure municipality needs to take control but certainly compensation is required.

.. How will you ensure that individual’s owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?  
.. This is something that all stakeholders must collectively work together at.

.. What funding is available to an individual farm business wishing to improve existing practices? What assistance will the municipality provide?

..

I am not aware of specific current funding available but certainly feel it is the mandate of all levels of government to offer incentives to farmers for expansions and maintaining status quo.  
Support lower tax rates to agricultural lands, wood lots, and feel the municipality can be an ally to farmers for lobbying senior levels of government.

.. How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?  
.. Not co-ordinated in my opinion. This area needs attention.

Bill Culver

## Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates

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

- Why are you running for office?
- I have wanted to serve on municipal council for a number of years, but could not do so in the past because of time conflicts, etc with my job. I have taken early retirement from LPRCA in order to run in this election. I believe the work of municipal councillor is very important to the life of the County and can be very interesting and rewarding. I believe I have considerable skills and relevant experience and contacts that will be of help to Council and the County.
  
- Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.
- Agriculture has had a very significant impact on Norfolk County, both financially and culturally, and continues to do so today. The Norfolk Fair and Delhi Tobacco Festival are just 2 examples of the “cultural” impact of our agricultural heritage. Most families in the County have had family members who have worked or may still work in the seasonal harvest (tobacco, fruit, berries, vegetables), and this is just part of who we are as a rural-based community.
  
- Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.
- Agricultural business has had a great impact economically in Norfolk. Farmers spend their money (when they have it) in their home communities typically. Property taxes from farm properties have been very significant in the past and still are. As noted in the previous answer, seasonal employment for non-farmer workers has been very important in the past, although less so today. The fact that agriculture is suffering to the extent it is today (especially tobacco production and cash crop production) has had and is having a ripple effect across the whole County.
  
- What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?
- I place a high priority on agricultural land use issues. The right to farm is fundamental in a rural-based community like Norfolk County. I strongly support the ALUS concept of compensating rural landowners (both farmers and non-farm rural landowners) whose land performs an environmental function for the broader community of the County and/or Province. This is for such things as source water protection (wetlands, well-head protection zones) and habitat protection. In other words if society or the municipality place restrictions on the landowner in terms of land use, then society or the municipality should pay at least in part for the environmental benefit resulting from those restrictions.
  
- Where does agriculture fit into the economic development priorities for the municipality/region?
- I believe agriculture will continue to have an important role in the future economic health of our County. This will no doubt involve new crops and/or land uses employed by farmers, but I see such things as agri-tourism and eco-tourism on farmland as important parts of our economic future.
  
- What is your position on the development of on-farm, value-added activities?
- I strongly support giving our farmers as much opportunity as possible to bring added value activities or products to the farm gate. This will be part of the solution to our current

farm crisis in terms of lost income and lost/limited markets. Things like farm gate markets, agri-tourism facilities, specialty crop processing and/or retailing are all good examples of what we must support and encourage.

- Do you recognize the authority of the province in regulating manure and other nutrient sources either generated or applied in your municipality?
- I do support the authority of the Province in this area, subject to the new Clean Water Act. The Nutrient Management Act does not presently encompass medium or small livestock operations, which can still have a negative impact on water quality if good farming practices are not utilized. I believe that the “source water protection plan” that will have to be developed for Norfolk County’s watersheds will achieve a locally-developed and locally-accepted solution to issues of nutrient management related to water supplies, and the costs of same.
  
- Are you willing to support a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farm lands?
- I think it would be impossible to begin to have a taxation system that would only collect taxes from certain sectors of the community if those dollars happen to be subsequently to be spent in certain geographic parts of the County or on certain types of programs or infrastructure. All taxpayers need to ensure that their Council is respective of the needs of all parts of our community and that needs are met when and where they arise. We must look at ourselves as Norfolk County as a whole, not ward versus ward or rural versus urban, as I feel the present council has done and is doing.
  
- How do you propose to encourage on-farm, value-added agricultural enterprises and address the excessive property taxes currently imposed on these activities?
- I believe that we can encourage such enterprise by making it easier for such activities to take place within the agricultural zoning of the proposed new County-wide zoning bylaw. The County also needs to work with the farm organizations (NFA for example) to attract more senior government funding (such as the CTP program, and Norfolk District Business Development Corp grants and loans) to start up such enterprises. With respect to taxes on such enterprise structures, etc., I feel if there is added value to the farm resulting from additional structures (buildings, processing facility) then this would need to be reflected in the current market value of the farm, as it would for any other new, added commercial, retail or industrial structure.
  
- 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.
- I do not know at present if such charges apply to agricultural structures. If so however, I believe there should be a different rate applied for structures on agricultural property. I realize that this appears contradictory to my answer in the previous question, but I feel the farmer trying to diversify his or her operation needs additional incentive and support to get started, following which the market value system of property assessment and taxation should apply.
  
- What are the key water management issues in the area?
- Clearly the key water management issue facing agriculture and the County at present is the “high use designation” for water permits that MOE has placed on us. This was not done based on good science or a lack of water, but just on the fact that we have many

PTTWs in the County. I am prepared to work hard to get this designation modified or reduced, and I feel I have the experience, and contacts to help do so. Secondly, the source protection planning issue is a big one that will require all parties to work together to find a made-at-home solution that everyone can live with. I also feel I have very important experience and credibility on this issue that will help the County and agriculture in particular.

- 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?
- Yes !!
  
- How will you ensure that individual’s owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?
- Under an ALUS-type program and as part of the source protection plan, the community as a whole or the users of municipal water supplies will need to financially assist property owners (farmers or non-farm landowner) whose land-use practices are curtailed within a wellhead area.
  
- What funding is available to an individual farm business wishing to improve existing practices? What assistance will the municipality provide?
- There have been and continue to be programs under federal and provincial funding for BMPs, through the local conservation authority, OSCIA and others. We need councillors who will assist these groups in continuing to attract these programs to Norfolk County. The County can also develop its own annual funding for such programs (particularly around wellhead protection areas) as part of its full-cost recovery program targets for municipal water supply.
  
- How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-coordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?
- I do not believe they are coordinated at present, in part due to the fact that no one has made an attempt to do so. I feel this is a role for our County councillors, which has not been done by the present council. The County could host regular liaison with federal and provincial agriculture officials and politicians to address issues and opportunities for Norfolk County’s rural community. This is another area where I have a particular interest and contacts that I feel will be of assistance to the County and the farm community, if elected.

Jim Oliver

## Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates

Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!

- Why are you running for office?
- To make Norfolk County a better place to live, work, and play.
  
- Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.
- Huge. Agriculture is the backbone of our area and has contributed greatly from a financial, environmental and culturally.
  
- Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.
- The majority of economic activity is derived from the agriculture sector.
  
- What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?
- HIGH Priority.
  
- Where does agriculture fit into the economic development priorities for the municipality/region?
- Agriculture fits at the highest level.
  
- What is your position on the development of on-farm, value-added activities?
- I have strongly promoted and supported the uses of value added production including agritourism and micro wineries.
  
- Do you recognize the authority of the province in regulating manure and other nutrient sources either generated or applied in your municipality?
- Yes
  
- Are you willing to support a by-law to exempt farm lands from taxation for expenditures on municipal services not applicable to farm lands?
- I brought the issue up about bunkhouse taxation to the council and spoke to the Minister about it at ROMA.
  
- How do you propose to encourage on-farm, value-added agricultural enterprises and address the excessive property taxes currently imposed on these activities?
- See question previously three above.
  
- 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.
- Development charges do apply to agriculture structures and should be treated the same a commercial in regard to the \$25,000 cap.

- What are the key water management issues in the area?
- I have worked diligently at council and council has made the issue of high water user designation placed on Norfolk County. Many letters were sent by the Mayor and Council to the province opposing the methodology of determining the designation. We have received correspondence back but have had limited success. More work needs to be done in this area from a municipal and provincial point of view.
- 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?
- Yes if we can control usage then I believe compensation should be provided to the landowner.
- How will you ensure that individual's owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?
- By leasing the land.
- What funding is available to an individual farm business wishing to improve existing practices? What assistance will the municipality provide?
- Currently there was money available to farmers through the Community Transition Program and hopefully when some resolution comes from the Tobacco settlement there will be more opportunities made available.
- How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?
- Three spheres of jurisdiction
  - Certain governments handle certain areas
  - Economic Development – New crops, Marketing, Added Value
  - Planning – Land use
  - Corporate Services – Taxation
  - Public Works – Infrastructure, Drainage.

**Dean Morrison – Ward 4**