

**Questions for Norfolk Council Candidates**  
**Please feel free to type your answers below the questions!**

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office as I want to bring an identity and leadership to Ward 7 that has been lacking the last few years. With my strong desire and motivation to represent all constituents, it is my pledge to you that I will work tirelessly at the side of all key stakeholders when making a decision. It is educated decision making like this that will result in making the right decision the first time.

Describe the impact of agriculture in your local area.

Describe the economic impact of agricultural business in your area.

The impact is tremendous. Our County and more importantly our Ward was built on agriculture. I think back to growing up in Waterford, farmers were so important for all the obvious reasons such as creating employment opportunities for a great number of local people, and putting quality produce & meat on the dinner table. I also think of the impact farming made in the community, whether it was sponsoring sports teams, facility renovations, or furnishing computer labs at local schools. Our community was built on agriculture and that is why we must give back and help at this time of transition. We must continue to chip away at all funding opportunities to move forward with the Agri-Food Innovation Centre proposal.

What priority do you place on agricultural land use issues?

It is very important. Our communities in Norfolk have been built on the foundation of agriculture and our land needs to be protected to allow our farmers to continue doing what they do best.

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

We are very fortunate to have some of the best farmland in Ontario right at our doorstep. Helping our farmers remain viable is vital and must be a major contributing factor to the continued economic development strategies. Driving farmers from the land and paving concrete is short-sighted and not sustainable. Municipal Council must do everything they can to ensure agriculture is a priority in our short and long range economic development plans.

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

I think that politicians of all levels need to get out of the way when it comes to entrepreneurial actions by farmers. We need to encourage value added activities

as long as those activities fit with a long range, economically environmentally sustainable approach.

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

Absolutely. Municipalities do not have the resources or the money to be interfering in provincial jurisdiction. But on the same token the municipality has a role to play with zoning and building permits and also the ability to comment when asked by the province during the review of the nutrient management plans and strategies. It serves no purpose for municipal Council to create more uncertainty and costs for farmers trying to make a living. In return, farmers are expected to be good neighbors, meet the provincial standards for nutrients and support environmentally sustainable practices.

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 am willing to consider such a By-law, however I would like to see what the economic impact would be for both the farmer and the municipality.

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

Supporting the agriculture community for on-farm value-added enterprises has to be part of the long range economic development strategy undertaken by the municipality. At a time when farmers must find new ways to remain in business, our municipality must undertake a review of the property taxes to ensure that we recognize fairness and consider the mutual benefit of supporting agriculture in our region.

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.

No, development charges do not apply to agricultural structures in Norfolk County.

What are the key water management issues in the area?

Our region has both types of water issues ranging from susceptible aquifers that we rely on, to drought conditions that forces us to consider water use priorities. But in each of those water management issues comes a cost and who pays to ensure we have in place water resources for now and the future remains to be seen. I support a mechanism whereas the municipality in partnership with the

provincial government recognizes the regional importance of our surface and groundwater and helps pay for the sustainable water management practices by all water users. I see no benefit in forcing farmers to take farmland out of production for the benefit of all citizens.

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. This would force the municipal staff to undertake a cost benefit analysis and determine whether or not the activity or undertaking is needed. It may turn out that moving a poorly located wellhead is more cost effective than buying sizeable amounts of land.

How will you ensure that individual's owning property near municipal well head will not be negatively impacted?

As I indicated in the previous questions, protecting our water resources need not be punitive or confrontational. Whoever determines the risk should also determine the funding and the landowner should be part of the cooperative solution.

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

There are existing ways to get financial assistance through the EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) program, through Conservation Authorities etc. With the limited resources that our municipal government has, I support the need to focus our money and efforts on targeting the biggest risks to our drinking water and then whatever resources we have after that, we should then discuss what support we can offer farmers wishing to improve existing practices.

How are municipal, provincial, and federal programs co-ordinated at the local level to address farm and rural family needs?

I am sure that all levels of government try to work together; however, we need to acknowledge environmental stewardship programs and efforts are not well coordinated. I would support a process that brings together the necessary programs to be based on one point of access for the farmer to deliver the certainty and credibility he or she needs to properly plan their business case for their farm operation. We do a disservice to any business or landowner by creating a complex, uncoordinated nightmare by the 3 levels of government failing to work together. We must eliminate the duplication and overlap between governments and ensure that our programs are fair and will result in positive outcomes for everyone involved.