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Survey Responses: **Gerry Marsh,** candidate for **Mayor, Milton**.

1. Currently, only municipalities can make a request to the Province to grow the Greenbelt, and they are responsible for implementing the Greenbelt Plan. Do you support growing the Greenbelt within your municipality and/or strengthening support for Greenbelt protection in your municipality?

Yes
I prefer protection or restoration of a natural resource in conjunction with a responsible use policy.

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2. In order for the Greenbelt to remain protected, municipalities must adhere to the Province's Places to Grow strategy, specifically, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, while respecting the protections under the Greenbelt Plan. Do you support concentrating development within your municipality's existing urban boundary, while limiting further urban expansion into farmlands or greenfields?

Yes
I think we need to find ways to avoid paving over some of the most viable farmland in the country. Again, as I stated above we need a responsible use policy for our natural resources which includes land use.

3. New roads and other infrastructure fragment the natural areas of the Greenbelt, threatening its ecological integrity by destroying connections between natural heritage features. Do you support urban planning that would facilitate enhanced infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, an efficient public transit system, increased funding for public transit and/or improving links to regional public transit systems?

Yes
With the understanding that costs for special interest infrastructure should be borne by the special interest group. Public transit or cycling isn't the answer to everyone's travel/commuting needs and vehicles backed up on over crowded roadways/highways are likely as damaging to the environment (if not more so) than creating an efficient/effective road system. We have a long way to go to

improve both the public transit and highway systems in the GTA. I feel there has been enough studying done and we need to take action on making improvements.

4. Strong market demand in urban areas near the Greenbelt for locally-grown foods supports a viable agricultural sector in the Greenbelt. Do you support the creation of a policy in your municipality that favours purchasing locally-grown foods for municipal facilities like nursing homes, day care centres and City cafeterias?

Yes
To the extent that people realize that there may be increased costs associated with such a policy and are willing to pay them.

5. Do you support stronger recycling and green-bin programs to reduce waste in your municipality?

Yes
I favour passive approaches that make recycling easier for people. Why do we need to sort our waste? What happened to the idea of a sorting facility after one truck picked up our garbage rather than 2 or 3 trucks driving our streets to collect from different bins/bags? Somehow I feel that this approach would be a more efficient and effective recycling method.

6. Water is a precious resource, yet Canadians continue to be one of the biggest per capita water consumers in the world, using almost double the amount of other developed countries. Do you support creating the water conservation policies necessary to offset new residential water demand for your municipality?

No
I agree that water is precious but I need to be educated on this topic. I don't see how water is wasted by individual use patterns. If water is used to bathe it is returned to the lake it came from after passing through a treatment plant, where is the waste? If water is used to water the lawn it eventually either seeps into the ground water or evaporates and falls as rain somewhere. What am I missing here? I do understand that when water is being drawn from wells or aquifers the source replenishment time frame likely limits the rate at which we can use water from this type of source; my view is based primarily on water use from the Great Lakes.

7. Given the need to reduce Ontario's contribution to climate change and foster the creation green jobs through investment in the green energy economy, will you support the removal of local barriers to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects in your community?

Yes
Aren't many of the local barriers attributable to objections from the public to placement in their neighbourhoods of the needed facilities? There always seems to be objection to wind turbines or clean energy plants (whether NG, nuclear or EFW) being built where best suited. We also need to realize that solar panels don't produce energy when the sun isn't shinning and windmills when the wind isn't blowing. We need a well thought out and balanced energy production policy at a government level above municipal.

8. Although aggregate (gravel) extraction is a permitted land use in the Greenbelt Plan, it continues to have huge negative impacts on the natural environment. Would you pursue a procurement policy that requires the highest level of recycled content allowable in municipal works projects, and situates aggregate extraction in areas away from sensitive natural heritage and source water features?

Yes

9. Do you support changes to the Ontario Municipal Elections Act to require that donations to candidates come only from electors in the municipality where the candidate is running, and that union and corporate contributions are banned?

Yes
I am funding my own campaign and favour regulation that minimizes the cost of running for office. I do not want to feel obligated to any group or individual once elected.

Will you vote on Election Day, Monday October 25, 2010?

   ◉ Yes   ◉ No

[Submit]

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