

2018 MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES SURVEY QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Environment Haliburton! is a long-standing environmental organization in Haliburton County. Our mission is to take a comprehensive holistic view of environmental issues and to provide a strong voice that encourages positive initiatives and opposes those initiatives that could have an adverse impact on the environment. EH! works in conjunction with other organizations to develop campaigns that raise ecological consciousness that protect, preserve and restore the natural environment of Haliburton County for future generations.

To ensure that environmental issues are addressed in the 2018 Haliburton County municipal elections we are asking you, the candidates, to respond to the following questions. Your responses will be published, unedited, on the Environment Haliburton! website and shared with local media outlets.

Please use this document to submit your responses by return e-mail to us, rsisson@gmail.com or heatherross@sympatico.ca by September the 22nd.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Ryan Sisson
President, Environment Haliburton!

Heather Ross
Secretary, Environment Haliburton!

1) Transportation:

Communities across Haliburton County recognize the need for and value of public transit. Without public transportation employers can not find employees, seniors stay at home, youth can not participate in school activities and we increase our release of greenhouse gases. The County has contracted for a plan to implement the shared booked ride model proposed by the Transportation Task Force. For more information go to www.transportationhaliburtoncounty.ca

If you are elected, will you commit to implementing an operating transit system by the end of your 4-year term?

YES NO
Comment

2) Climate Change (Adaptation):

Climate change is accelerating, and municipalities around the world are rushing to adapt to the impacts of severe weather, flooding and invasive species. Jurisdictions surrounding Haliburton County already have or are developing Climate Change Adaptation Plans to protect people and property from the impact of the climate changes already locked in by past greenhouse gas emissions.

If elected, will you commit to doing everything you can to develop a county-wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan within the next term of council?

YES NO
Comment

3) Climate Change (Mitigation):

Over the last term of County Council, a county-wide initiative to address climate change was discussed but not acted upon. It's even unclear whether Township and County corporate greenhouse gas emissions have been rising or falling over the past six years because no one has tallied the results of provincially-mandated annual energy use and carbon emission reports and compared them to the modest reduction goals set out in the Township and County Energy Management Plans.

If elected, will you fight to make adoption of a Climate Change Action Plan a Council Priority, pursue funding and staffing commitments to make it happen, and urge Council to take climate change into account when making all Township and the County infrastructure investments?

YES NO
Comment

4) Food Security

Food insecurity has many sources – poverty, lack of access to healthy foods, long food supply chains. It is estimated that stores stock only 3 days food. Should the supply chain collapse people in Haliburton County will be in a food deficit. Relying more on locally produced food would go some way to alleviate food insecurity. Our Haliburton Townships and the County are to be commended for having taken many steps to support local agriculture and the food system, including participating in Harvest Haliburton (<http://www.harvesthaliburton.com/>).

If elected will you ensure that your Municipality takes into consideration the production, processing and retail of local foods and land use, when formulating by-laws and by-law amendments, recognizing our rural nature?

YES NO
Comment

5) Wetlands:

Wetlands are important. They provide habitat for fish and wildlife, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, water quality protection through filtering, flood and erosion control and are rich in biodiversity. They are also carbon sinks, helping to mitigate the impact of climate change.

It is estimated that over 20,000 wetlands in the County have not been evaluated, 8 are protected as Provincially Significant Wetlands. Municipal and county land use plans do provide protection for wetlands. However, we continue to lose wetlands to development. Enforcement of wetlands protection on municipal lands is weak at best.

If elected, will you ensure that the wetland protection provisions in your land use plan are enforced?

YES NO
Comment

6) Species at Risk:

Scientists say that we are in the sixth mass extinction of plants and animals. Differing from the other five extinctions, this one is caused by us through loss of habitat, introduction of exotic species and climate change. Haliburton County is home to several known species at risk. From bats and turtles to Butternut trees and American Ginseng the list is a getting longer as Climate Change alters our living environment. A list of the identified species can be found on the Haliburton Land Trust website <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/wildlife/species-at-risk>.

If elected, do you commit supporting the efforts made by several local organizations to protect species at risk and their habitat?

YES NO
Comment

7) Shorelines:

Natural shorelines are in serious retreat clear across Haliburton County. Healthy shorelines, with a minimum of 75% of their original natural vegetation intact, are not only essential to maintain healthy lakes and high levels of water quality, they are central to the economic health of the entire County.

The recently completed Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA) 4-year, 60 waterbody "Love Your Lake" assessment closely examined 12,000 waterfront properties encompassing some 1000km of shoreline and concluded that fully 92% of Haliburton Lakes failed to meet the 75% natural shoreline standard.

If elected, what are you prepared to help stop the decline of natural shorelines and encourage the renaturalization efforts required to bring us back to the 75% natural standard essential to protecting the health of Haliburton's Lakes?

Comment

8) Lake Health:

In 1990, Ontario passed the "Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act" to address the health of our deteriorating waterways. Today, un-inspected septic systems, wetland and shoreline development, and increased water temperature pose a real and significant threat to lake health.

Lake health is vital to the survival of our natural environment, and to the economic development upon which Haliburton County has prospered. The likelihood of a blue-green algae outbreak for instance, could have detrimental impacts on human and environmental health- contaminating our air, and drinking water.

If elected, will you support implementing measures to protect the water in our lakes and streams with measures such as:

- a) **Implementing and enforcing procedures to ensure all septic systems in the County are monitored and working properly? YES or NO**
- b) **Consider restricting boat sizes within county boundary lakes to mitigate erosion? YES or NO**
- c) **Ban the use of fireworks and lead based lures to eliminate lead entering the water systems? YES or NO**

Comments
