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Survey Responses: **Neil Bos**, candidate for **Ward 15, Hamilton**.

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'm very leery of the province when it comes to protecting our Greenbelt. If there was a way to strengthen our greenbelt protection, I would be for it. I would happily support, for example, a moratorium on all new land development if I thought the Province had lost its resolve.



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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 lean that way, but I think it's important to keep an open mind. Too often I have seen elected officials take a stand on principle without consideration of facts that might make a vigorous and rational argument against their positions. For example, sometimes we rely on apparent science, only to learn that "assumptions" were faulty.

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

I do support cyclist, pedestrian, jogger and senior transportation infrastructure. Britain claims 8,000km of walking paths that do not follow the same routes as cars and trucks. We have walking paths (old rail lines, for example), but not enough of them, and not easy to find.

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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?

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No

If by "viable" you mean profitable, I can guarantee you that big agriculture will exploit our naivete by redefining "local" or packaging inferior fruit and vegetables and labeling them "local." When it comes to food shopping I am extremely careful. I read everything, and I make an effort to know who I'm dealing with.

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

Yes

Hamilton is pretty good about separating its garbage. But how about separating paper and containers, and limiting pickup of containers to the first garbage day of each month. I have a hunch there would be fewer sugar-water drinks sold, and fewer cast-off cans. And can't anyone do anything about the Tim's cups that litter our streets?

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

Water is our oil. I don't waste a drop, but I do luxuriate in it in tubs and showers. We've been blessed with prodigious amounts of water, potable, industrial and recreational. How lucky we are not to have to adopt costly technologies to desalinate water or to turn sewage into drinking water. (It's done, but it's not popular.)

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

We've just begun this journey. Let's take a couple of steps back and see how wind, solar, tidal, biomass, gas, diesel, thermal and nuclear are going to work together. Again, water comes to our rescue: hydro-generating stations, dams, computer systems to keep power up and prices down. Lucky, lucky, us.

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

This topic makes my blood boil. It's galling to me that a giant corporation can come along, right a few cheques, and go into a business that threatens our aquifers, ecosystems, families and lifestyles. Quarries should be developed 100 miles from all civilization.

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?

No

This is a trick question. What you're really asking is this: Do you mind that only a local millionaire can afford to run a political campaign? Check out the representatives, senators and Governors in the US. Money. Money. Money. It's human nature to spend your way to victory if money is no object.

10. The Province issued a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) in April 2010, at the request of the City of Hamilton and the Region of Halton, to stop the first Greenfield quarry in the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt and the Carlisle drinking water protection area, proposed by St Mary's Cement. Will you defend the governments' decision to protect the Greenbelt before the relevant tribunals, such as the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)?

I will not permit St Mary's Cement, and their owner, Votorantim of Brazil to defile our Ward. They can burn through cash, knock on doors, hire administrative lawyers, and generally make asses of themselves, but this is one resource that will not be sacrificed in any set of circumstances. The answer was no; is still no; and will remain no.

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

Yes No

Submit

I will vote on Election Day, Monday October 25, 2010

