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Survey Responses: **Rick Goldring**, candidate for **Mayor, Burlington**.

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

The Greenbelt Plan so far is a great achievement. We need to definitively support protection of the Greenbelt and grow it where it makes sense to do so.



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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

Absolutely. Burlington is blessed with approximately 50% rural land. We need to preserve that and as a result concentrate development within the urban boundary.

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

We need to build complete communities that foster and encourage pedestrian and cycling activity and make our transit systems more efficient.

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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?

Yes

Implementation of a policy that favours locally-grown food where municipalities have control will support the agricultural sector plus lower the transportation carbon footprint.

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

Yes

Halton does have a good program. We need to encourage more usage of recycling and green bin programs. Burlington has resourced a zero waste initiative for the city.

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?

Yes

We need to engage citizens in such a way so we all understand that our resources are not limitless and we should be responsible in how we utilize our resources including water.

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

Municipalities should minimize or remove local barriers regarding green energy projects. By doing so, we can reduce our carbon footprint sooner and this will also send a message that Burlington is serious about climate change.

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

We need to lessen the demand for aggregate so pursuing recycled content in local projects only makes sense and so does limiting the areas where aggregate can be extracted.

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

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This may make fundraising more challenging and create a greater barrier to entry for potential candidates. Therefore, we may also want to press the Ontario government for a tax break on donations to municipal campaigns.

10. Do you support the Region of Halton's Natural Heritage System and will you oppose any attempts to locate new highways through it?

I strongly supported ROPA 38 which includes the Natural Heritage System. I will strongly oppose any attempts for new highways to go through it.

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

Yes No

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