

# #15

COMPLETE

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**Q1** Nestlé is permitted to take 3.6 million litres of water per day in Aberfoyle. The Staff Report to the Committee of the Whole on November 7, 2016 was explicit that a new municipal well “when it is developed, has the potential to conflict with Nestlé’s water taking” (p. 7) (see report here). As had been previously noted by staff and confirmed in the City’s Tier 3 Risk Assessment, the report went on to note that “there are limits to the available groundwater to satisfy Guelph’s future water supply needs,” and that “As such, future renewals of industrial water takings in the area should be weighed against the broader needs of the community” (p. 7). If elected will you “Support a Council resolution to oppose the renewal of Nestle’s permit to take water in Aberfoyle”?

Other (please specify):

Page 7 of the staff report states that “At this point in time, the Nestle permit to take water does not conflict with Guelph’s water supply.” The report also states that the future “Guelph South Well” is a potential future water source subject to agreement from the Township of Puslinch and others which “has the potential to conflict with the Nestles water taking.” Given that the majority of Guelph’s water supply comes from the Township of Puslinch we will need to work with them as a City to secure the City’s future water supply. I will need to see and review future staff reports regarding this issue and will vote to ensure a sustainable water supply for the City of Guelph.

**Q2** Clean drinking water and breathable fresh air are necessary to sustain life. The Clair-Maltby area, for which development planning is currently underway, is the last large greenfield area within the city and thus requires very careful planning. Furthermore, because clean water and fresh air are vital to everyone, the protection of the Paris-Galt Moraine is of vital importance to all the citizens of Guelph and surrounding communities. Thus, because Guelph is a groundwater-dependent community, we must protect the groundwater recharge function and quality as well as the unique natural and cultural heritage features of the Clair-Maltby area. Guelph City Council must ensure the sensitive development of Clair-Maltby. If elected will you “Set population density at a maximum of 12,050 for Clair-Maltby”?

Other (please specify):

The province has set density and population/job targets for the City of Guelph which the city is required to comply with. City staff have a population density range for Clair Maltby and studies are ongoing.

## Candidates Position on Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action

**Q3** If elected will you “Protect the natural water recharge functions of moraine in Clair-Maltby development”?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

City staff are reviewing the planning of the Clair Maltby Secondary Plan area very carefully to ensure that the groundwater recharge function and quality are being protected.

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**Q4** If elected will you “Provide a full-range and size of parks as mandated by the Official Plan — urban squares, neighbourhood, community and regional parks for Clair-Maltby development”?

Other (please specify):

I will continue to support a full range of municipal parkland being provided in accordance with the Official Plan and the Planning Act. I note that Council relies on the information provided by staff in this regard.

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**Q5** If elected will you “Focus on low-carbon transportation infrastructure to all amenities and residences in Clair-Maltby development”?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

Road and trail connections in Clair Maltby will be very important to ensure that transit routes and active transportation will be able to be provided.

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**Q6** If elected will you “Restore, protect and maintain the integrity of the Natural Heritage System in the Clair-Maltby area including the tree canopy and the moraine topography”?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

OPA No. 42 has established the Natural Heritage System within the Clair Maltby area which protects a number of features including tree canopy and moraine topography. I voted in favour of the City’s Natural Heritage System being included in the Official Plan.

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**Q7** If elected will you “Protect the heritage buildings and landscapes identified in the Clair-Maltby area”?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

I feel very strongly that the Cultural Heritage Landscape in Clair Maltby already approved by Council must be protected by not allowing any development, grading or construction within this area.

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## Candidates Position on Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action

**Q8** If elected will you "Consult on Clair-Maltby development with all groups, organizations and individuals who have an interest in city-building"?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

Consultation is a very important part of the planning process.

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**Q9** If elected will you "Obtain free, prior and informed consent from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, as per the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before initiating Phase 3 development activities for Clair-Maltby"?

Other (please specify):

Council requires legal advice with respect to this question.

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**Q10** The City, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Province of Ontario have, over five decades, invested millions of dollars to acquire the land needed to form the largest and most complete urban stream corridor nature conservancy in Ontario. Now with land acquisition one property away from being complete, and with a Masterplan for the nature reserve adopted in principle, the City and the GRCA propose the Hanlon Creek Land Acquisition Project be abandoned and portions of the conservation-zoned land already purchased be declared surplus and sold to developers. If elected will you "Fulfill the commitment to establish the Hanlon Creek Conservancy and Nature Reserve and not consider any sale of possible surplus land until the nature reserve is fully established and functioning"?

**Yes,**

Other (please specify):

I am supportive of fulfilling the commitment to establish the Hanlon Creek Conservancy Nature Reserve. However, I don't believe Council has the ability to control whether the GRCA sells lands that it has deemed to be surplus

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**Q11** The Dolime Quarry in Guelph-Eramosa as been extracting aggregate for over 150 years, pumping out groundwater by the millions of litres per day and blasting deep into the layers of rock that the protect aquifer -- and therefore much of Guelph's drinking water -- from surface water contamination. In 2008, the Ontario Geological Society discovered that excavation at the Dolime quarry had breached the protective layer of the aquifer. The City of Guelph "has long maintained that excavation and water-taking at the Dolime quarry has the potential to impact the quality and quantity of Guelph's municipal water supply system," and is now in a formal mediation process on this issue with the quarry owner, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. If elected, will you work to "bring an end to aggregate extraction at the Dolime quarry, and to ensure the highest quality mitigation of the breach and of other damage already done, with expenses covered by the quarry's owner rather than Guelph ratepayers"?

Other (please specify):

I am committed to a mediation process with Dolime to the City's satisfaction to ensure the protection of Guelph's drinking water.

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## Candidates Position on Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action

**Q12** This region's growth and urban development is a potential threat to some water resources. Urbanization and human activities are impacting the region's rivers, wetlands and underground reservoirs (called aquifers), and can impact both the quality and quantity of water available to local communities, industry, and plants and animals. If elected, will you "Support a Council resolution to include public lands of Guelph's urban river corridor in an expanded Bluebelt"?

Other (please explain):

The Province has included the publicly owned urban river valley lands within the Greenbelt within the Guelph Innovation District lands.

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**Q13** Please provide contact information

Candidate Name

**Christine Billings**

Ward (if candidate for council)

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