



Lake Simcoe Watch Questions for 2018 Municipal Election Candidates

Lake Simcoe Water Quality and Cold Water Fishery

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, to improve the water quality of Lake Simcoe (e.g., reduction of weeds and algae blooms) and to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) Lake Simcoe's annual phosphorus loading must be reduced by 40% to 44 tonnes per year.

Streams that are affected by runoff (e.g., fertilizers, manure) from urban, rural and agricultural areas are responsible for more than half of Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings. Dust from construction sites, pits and quarries and agricultural lands is another major source of phosphorus.

Woodlands and wetlands help to regulate water quality by filtering out contaminants and absorbing excess nutrients before they reach the Lake. The loss of woodlands, wetlands and natural shorelines has led to increased phosphorus loadings into Lake Simcoe.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ontario's phosphorus reduction strategy does not have a work plan to actually lower Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year.

For more information please see: www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy.

Question: Should municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed work with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026?

Lake Simcoe's Forests, Wetlands and Meadows

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed area should consist of *high quality* forests, wetlands and meadows.

At present, approximately 39% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of natural cover. Unfortunately, much of this land is too fragmented and therefore does not provide *high quality* habitat and migration corridors for animals, birds and plants.

Question: Should municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed work with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to ensure that by 2026, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of *high quality connected* forests, wetlands and meadows?

Respecting Our Right To Be Heard

In 2017 the DG Group sought permission (a Section 28 permit) from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) to destroy the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland in the North Gwillimbury Forest.

The LSRCA refused to establish a process for receiving and reviewing submissions from citizens who believe that the wetland should be preserved. This is contrary to the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.

Question: Should the LSRCA establish a process for receiving and reviewing submissions from the public with respect to all Section 28 permit applications pertaining to Lake Simcoe's wetlands, floodplains and shorelines?

Making Growth Pay for Growth

Currently, development charges do not recover all of a municipality's additional capital costs for new infrastructure (e.g., roads, water, sewage) to service new residential and commercial developments. As a result, our local taxes are continuously being raised to subsidize the costs of servicing new developments.

Question: Should the *Development Charges Act* be amended to allow municipalities to recover 100% of their additional infrastructure costs to service new residential and commercial projects from their developers?