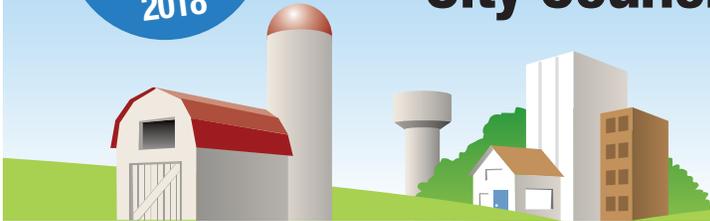


# GRAND AGENDA FOR GROUNDWATER ACTION

MUNICIPAL  
ELECTIONS  
OCT 22  
2018

## Survey of candidates for Guelph City Council – discussion of results



### Background

Wellington Water Watchers surveyed candidates for Guelph City Council regarding 12 specific actions to protect groundwater. Our purpose was twofold: to inform voters of where candidates stand on water issues, and to put candidates who are elected on the record. 25 of 35 candidates (71%) completed the survey.

### Summary

The Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action has broad support among Guelph's municipal candidates. Many indicated clear and consistent support for most (if not all) of the issues. Other candidates appear to support our agenda in principle, even if they are unclear on or disagree with some of the details. A few candidates, however, saw the water-related issues in our survey very differently.



### Water bottling and Nestlé

Candidates were asked whether, if elected, they would “Support a Council resolution to oppose the renewal of Nestlé’s permit to take water in Aberfoyle”. Sixteen candidates agreed to support this resolution and one candidate said no. Several said they would act on this issue given evidence of a direct impact on Guelph’s water needs.



### Clair-Maltby Development and the Paris-Galt Moraine

A majority of candidates responding to the survey answered affirmatively to the seven questions related to the Clair-Maltby development. Most candidates responded “yes” or submitted positive comments regarding:

- Protecting the natural water recharge functions of the Paris-Galt moraine
- Focusing on low-carbon transportation infrastructure
- Restoring, protecting and maintaining the integrity of the Natural Heritage System
- Protecting the area’s heritage buildings and landscapes
- Consulting with all groups, organizations and individuals interested in city-building

Most respondents were in favour of “Providing a full-range and size of parks as mandated by the Official Plan”.

Eighteen candidates supported “Obtaining free, prior and informed consent from the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation”. Several candidates suggested that the City would have to consult their legal team before deciding.

The question about *setting a maximum population of 12,050 for Clair-Maltby* resulted in the most diverse responses. Twelve candidates favour this maximum. Those opposed to this density level questioned if the City could meet its targets under the *Places to Grow Act* or meet the need for social housing. Some candidates did not understand the rationale for the target number.

Among those who expressed uncertainty about the population target for the Clair-Maltby development—as well as some who selected “no”—some respondents favoured keeping the population to the legislated minimum, whatever that number is; some expressed a general need to balance population growth with moraine protection and other environmental concerns; and others indicated they would defer to staff recommendations.



### Hanlon Creek Conservancy and Nature Reserve (aka “Niska Lands”)

Nineteen of the 25 candidates who responded say they will act, if elected, to *ensure the Hanlon Creek Conservancy and Nature Reserve is fully established before any of the GRCA property in that area is sold for development*. Most of those who did not answer “yes” did not indicate opposition to the idea, but said they would need more information or pointed out the complicated jurisdictional issues between the Conservation Authority and the City. Only one candidate registered an unequivocal “no”.



### Dolime Quarry

Responses to this question about ending aggregate extraction at the Dolime quarry and mitigating the site at the expense of the owner (not Guelph ratepayers) are complicated by a legal process the City is engaged in about it.

Several respondents, including some incumbents, declined to say “yes” or “no” due to the ongoing legal process. For other candidates, the confidential nature of the legal process made it difficult to get the information needed to answer. Nonetheless, there appeared to be broad appreciation for the City’s actions on this issue so far, and for ending Dolime quarrying with the companies benefitting from it paying for mitigating the risks.

Fifteen respondents answered “yes” and none answered “no”. Some pointed out that Dolime Quarry is not within the City of Guelph, but indicated they would advocate with Guelph-Eramosa and/or the provincial government to deal with the quarry and its threats to Guelph’s drinking water. Some candidates looked beyond the end of aggregate extraction at Dolime to imagine positive ways to develop the property.



### Expanding the Greenbelt: ‘Blue-belt’ expansion

Candidates were asked if they “Support a Council resolution to include public lands of Guelph’s urban river corridor in an expanded Bluebelt”. Most said they would support the move, at least in principle, while some candidates said they needed more information. Only one answered “no”.

An incumbent candidate commented that they have received information on this idea from City staff, but would be open to “revisiting” this issue at another opportunity. Another incumbent reported having been a founding member of a network of municipal leaders advocating for Greenbelt protection, and would support Greenbelt expansion.



### Now what?

Let the candidates in your ward know where you stand on water issues, and what you think of their positions. Use these questions to converse with candidates at your door and raise them at campaign events.

And don’t forget to vote! Election day is Monday, October 22 (advance voting October 12-14). For information about how, when or where to vote, visit [www.vote.guelph.ca](http://www.vote.guelph.ca)

Support the Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action! Visit [www.GroundWaterAction.ca](http://www.GroundWaterAction.ca) and/or email us at [wellingtonwaterwatchers@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonwaterwatchers@gmail.com)

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