

Mayor of Burlington

Rick Goldring:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption is the top priority. There is an abundance of data to show the negative impacts of climate change as the result of the consumption of fossil fuels. The Community Energy Plan that council approved this year is the foundation for Burlington to do its part in reducing fossil fuel consumption by creating a culture of conservation, promoting energy efficiency, facilitating clean generation, being more efficient with land use by transforming more of Burlington to be compact, mixed use and walkable and encouraging alternative forms of transportation including transit, cycling and walking.

The August 4 storm and the resulting flood damages is a local indicator of the fact that our weather is becoming warmer, wetter and wilder and the city is reviewing our storm water infrastructure and our overall ability to be a resilient city.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

I do support the triple line decision making process in principle and where it makes the most sense especially for some major decisions. Major development applications should be vetted in this way and the Burlington Sustainable Development Advisory Committee does a great job providing council with input. However, we get very little input on the economic side and we should. The City of Burlington Finance Department and the Burlington Economic Development Corporation could fill in the economic gaps.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes. The State of the Environment Report is a great piece of work that the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) does a great job preparing. Council needs to have discussion with the SDC and staff to focus on the top 5 priorities and report on the progress every year.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

The City of Burlington has received awards for the tremendous improvement in conservation.

I do support specific targets.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Broadly speaking yes, as long as what would be measured would be meaningful and quantifiable.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Halton Region already has a target of 65% for waste diversion by 2016 and currently we are at 61%. In 2016, we will be considering increasing the target to 70%. Reaching a target like this is just like losing weight, the last 5 – 10 pounds are the toughest to lose. On waste diversion, when we introduced the green cart program in 2008, we went from 41% to 59% almost overnight. People need to be much more diligent to go to 70%. I believe that Halton Region does a great job communicating on waste diversion. People simply need to be reminded what they can do to reach that 70%.

Halton Region water statistics show that more and more people are using less and less water as result of conservation but also as a result of the standards that have been put into place as a result of more modern building codes.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

There is potential merit in this idea. We need to clearly understand or define the objective and have alignment on the objectives before we go down this path.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

We need to clearly define the desired results and then determine how we achieve them. If that involves re-allocation of current resources, that should be considered.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

All financial decisions need to be taken during the budget process and in context with competing priorities.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Yes. Despite the fact that council did not support a by-law, I continue to do so with a look to creating one similar to Oakville, Mississauga or Toronto.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

This is an interesting question. There is a strong movement in opposition to the La Salle Park Marina Wave break Project because of the risk to the Trumpeter Swans. The proposed LaSalle Park Marina Expansion should only be considered to move forward if the swans will not be harmed.

We need balanced, rational and thoughtful discussion on this issue before a final decision is made about the marina expansion and break wall. We must ensure that there are no potential negative effects for the trumpeter swans.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Yes- I would introduce for council consideration a Recognition and Awards Program for Sustainable Buildings. This would include new and retrofit. Buildings contribute to approximately 12% of the GHG across Canada. There are so many different technologies today that can be used fairly easily to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings and we should do all we can to encourage this.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I would certainly be willing to review initiatives like community gardens where green space is used to facilitate local produce. I am also in favour of protecting agricultural lands in North Burlington.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

I support programs that maintain the protection of good clean air and water by reducing our carbon footprint. We need to continue to develop good urban planning and design sustainability practices that complement our natural environment.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

I believe in sustainability and it is important to maintain our local agricultural land and water supplies now and for the future. I will continue to support protecting Burlington's unique heritage environment.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

We need to continue to have Burlington evolve in such a way that we have more mixed use, compact and walkable neighbourhoods that are transit oriented, so people do not have to hop in their cars as much as we do now. Over half the automobile trips in the city are less than 6 km. By having a more meaningful cycling infrastructure, more and more people would ride their bikes. We also need to

continue to encourage and promote public transit. We now have 30 minute service for GO Rail in the off peak and we need to continue to push the province to implement the proposed Express Rail Service sooner than they otherwise might. We also need to continue to strive to have more jobs in Burlington that match the skill set of residents in order for commute distances to be reduced and improve quality of life.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Potentially yes, but the decision cannot be made on its own, it needs to be considered and balanced with the other priorities that the city has. This happens during budget discussions.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes –we do it now and we will continue to improve on this.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

Of course my family and I continue to reuse and recycle in our household.

I ride my bike for personal errands on occasion and sometimes to city hall.

We set the thermostat to 68 in the winter and 74 in the summer.

I take Go Transit whenever I go to downtown Toronto.

I continue to drive a hybrid car and we cut our grass with a push mower.

Anne Marsden:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Peter Rusin:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Ward 1

Patrick Allen:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The number 1 environmental priority for Burlington is the upgrading and renewal of our infrastructure to include storm drain and sewage renewal.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

I support the application of a system that is reasonable, cost effective and within the top 5 priorities of the community today and tomorrow. I do not support the expansion of our city administration to achieve these goals, rather, I look to organized groups to suggest creative and sustainable initiatives that take into consideration the fiscal realities of the current tax base.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

I ask myself why Burlington Council supports studies, produces reports on the state of the environment and then fails to act on the information contained in the report?

It appears that a lot of thought, time and energy went into this study. There are many aspects of the "recommendations" listed in this study that looks at other municipalities in comparison to ours. It seems our current council tends to operate on a "keeping up with the Joneses" basis rather than looking worldwide and under every unturned stone for opportunities and suggestions to do something creative. playing it safe is a very precarious position to be in and was evident in this year's flooding crisis.

I will take this report and venture out to find creative, viable solutions to our top priorities.

If we are to achieve success in creating a city whereby the quality of life is second to none, we must elect officials with skills and talents that can see us through for generations to come.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Absolutely. I wouldn't have it any other way. Resource consumption at the municipal level has to continue to exemplify responsible energy management. I would support initiatives to reduce energy consumption. Greening the Fleet initiative needs to continue in earnest and become more creative. Eliminating vehicles wherever possible, scheduling meetings to be held in the virtual world, lights out policies and perhaps renewable energy sources such as solar energy and wind energy.

Saving money and the environment are both win/win scenarios with my election to council.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Why wouldn't I? How else can we determine the efficacy of our programs and policies and determine our cost/benefit ratios?

I support creative solutions to our issues in general and believe that establishing a solid foundation on which to build is the best way forward rather than adopting expensive measures that may work in other municipalities but not necessarily in our municipality.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Thinking like a taxpayer.....like someone who works hard to maintain their way of life and who expects that their community is well cared for by the stewards they elect, I do support established targets and I do encourage the community to participate and select options that work.

We have some very bright and well educated citizens here in our midst and I would call upon them to join community initiatives and come up with creative solutions. I would like to offer incentives beyond the obvious to attract this local talent.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

I support initiatives that are creative and that improve the quality of life for all. I do not support costly trials and ventures and I do not support the expansion of our administration without a viable, cost effective, perhaps time limited, plan.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

See above

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

What if the Urban Forest Management Plan prohibits the establishment of a renewable energy source? What is a portion of these lands are prime sites for solar energy projects owned and operated by the City of Burlington?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

Jason Boelhouwer:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

To me the number 1 environmental issue is the exhausts from all the traffic and the idling that takes place during traffic congestion. If the City would take steps to ease congestion, it would eliminate a significant amount of this pollution.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

I would like to think that this is already being done implicitly, if not then it should be.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes I have reviewed the report, and it would seem that an annual report card by an independent organization (such as Burlington Green) could be helpful.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Absolutely, then promoting success to show good stewardship & leadership. And be able to demonstrate how individuals can too.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Absolutely, and then following the idea from Question #4 to promote success.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes, lead by example then promote the success stories....i.e.: a 1 degree lowering of the water temperature in the City Pools saved us \$XXX....then follow idea from Question #4

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

On the surface yes, but I don't have enough details / information to make a fully informed decision.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Limitations aside, planning that does not have resources allocated to the fulfillment of that plan is only half a plan. I would support the efforts to find ways to set aside the limitations.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Absolutely, but 8(b) must also be addressed for this to come to pass.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes, see #7(b)

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Fundamentally yes, development applications already have some of this in place of course. To extend it may be able to be done through an application process / fee when a company is brought in to take down the tree. Applications could go to the City Arborist (?) for review and an approval.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I would require the trumpeter swan habitat and the Marina to be created in such a manner that they augment each other rather than to battle against each other. The two should not be mutually exclusive.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Considering the number of buildings the City is responsible for I am sure that the City stays on top of these issues. If building standards are not continually developed and improved as technology changes, then the building practices stagnate rather than innovate. People want to buy/renovate with the best, most modern and most efficient/effective products and methods. If the Ontario Building Codes lag behind the industry, then as a homeowner I believe that it is our responsibility to advocate for what is right.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I think that Community Gardens are a wonderful idea, they can not only bring the people of a community closer, but they can also help by giving something back (food)

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Rather than simply planting flowers in City flower beds, why not plant perennial herbs etc. That could perhaps be sponsored and given to restaurants, local groups etc. I have seen this done in Stratford very nicely.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

I must acknowledge that I am not fully aware of this policy initiative to have an informed position but I do support the concept.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

The Cities Transportation Master Plan is a great start but there is a long way to go....

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

I don't know what this would actually look like but please refer to item 7(b)

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes, especially with respect to serving the needs of Seniors and Children.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

In February of 2014 I replaced both of our gas guzzling vehicles with newer, more fuel efficient vehicles. On occasion I also take the opportunity to walk to work (scheduling and weather permitting).

Rick Craven:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The number one issue is air pollution because it impacts not only the environment but also our health. To a very large degree this relates to carbon gas emissions, mainly from cars. Our long term goal must be to improve our use of public transit and build more pedestrian and cycling pathways in order to reduce our dependence on cars. This is why I support more intensification. Building more compact communities reduces dependence on cars.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

I believe I already have. For example: improving the Plains Road corridor is good for the economic health of Aldershot, improves social interaction and will eventually aid the environment through increased public transit.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

As a former member of the Sustainable Development Committee I know that a lot of work goes into this document. I value it as an important guide.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes, and in fact we have already made significant progress. I support the idea of steady incremental improvement.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes, provided they are reasonable and achievable.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes I do. And public education is very important in this area. As a member of Regional Council I am very pleased with our community messaging in publications like the POST and at events like Rifest.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes, and in fact I have been the lead supporter for the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System in north Aldershot.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Already have done so.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Essentially yes, but there is a need for much more public education around this subject.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Already have done so.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Yes, of course, but this requires a lot more public education. Surveys show clearly that most residents of Burlington do not support a private property tree bylaw.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

The City of Burlington helped pay for an Environmental Assessment which concluded there is no threat to the swans at the marina. This has been appealed to the Province. I will be guided by the decision of the Province. Meanwhile, the Manager, Population Conservation for the Canadian Wildlife Service personally advised me that the swans at LaSalle are neither threatened or on the Endangered Species list.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

I was the only member of Council to support the proposed sustainable building guidelines before they were withdrawn by the majority of Council.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Of course. I'm proud of my support for the new community garden in Aldershot.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

I'm a big proponent of local farmers' markets.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

The Food and Water First organization is dedicated to protecting Class 1 farmland and source water regions across the province. As a strong supporter of urban intensification, I respect this initiative.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

More and better public transit. More bike lanes. Wider and better sidewalks.....all of which we are achieving along the Plains Road corridor.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Already have done so.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Absolutely! That's exactly what we are doing in Aldershot. So, why does Burlington Green refuse to endorse the Plains Road Village Vision?

Editor's Note: BurlingtonGreen has not participated in the Plains Road Village Vision process. However it is our position that like other communities in the City, the Aldershot/Plains Road area can benefit from improved connectivity including more active transport access to community services.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I am increasingly interested in recycling and have been doing a lot more of it recently at my home.

Katherine Henshell:

No responses received

Garry Milne:

No responses received

Margaret Anne Steiss:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Ward 2

Kelly Arnott:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The #1 environmental priority for Burlington is to mitigate the environmental impact of growth. The growth of our population is inevitable, and the growth of our economy is desirable, but there is an environmental cost to both. I would tackle this issue by working with residents, council, staff, the region, and our business community to plan for smart, sustainable growth. I will take action to reduce air pollution by supporting sensible cycling initiatives and urban planning that encourages walkable, complete streets, and transit use. The floods of August 4 were also a reminder that we are likely face more severe weather in the future due to climate change and there will be further challenges to our infrastructure in years to come.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes, although guidelines would need to be developed so it's clear how the triple bottom line would be applied.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes, I have reviewed the State of the Environment Report. Council members should take the information contained in the report into consideration during the review process of the Official Plan and when making decisions--not only when environmental factors need to be addressed, but also when there is an opportunity to implement a recommendation.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Absolutely, and I see no reason why this should be expensive or cumbersome to implement targets and in fact, they could ultimately save taxpayers money.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes. I think setting targets is a great way to encourage a discussion and get us all thinking about what we can do to conserve water and energy, create less air pollution and less waste.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Increasing our inventory of green space is something I'd like to see, but without more information, I'm hesitant to commit to creating a master plan for that purpose. I'm not sure that's the best way to achieve our goal of acquiring more green space. Budgeting decisions for land acquisition need to be made in the context of other municipal priorities and the economic situation of the city. That said, I am delighted we now have a land acquisition fund and that the city was able to buy the General Brock Park land.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

From what I see, yes. At this point I'm not aware the specific cost involved in allocating the necessary staff and resources to achieve these targets, but I am prepared to make responsible decisions based on the objectives of the plan.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

It is very important that we protect our urban canopy. It has become not only an aesthetic issue, but a public health concern. Yes, I would support a private tree by-law but it needs to respect a landowner's right to make changes to his or her property in an environmentally responsible manner. This can be achieved by a permit system, whereby permits are required for the removal of more than 3 healthy trees, for example, and landowners are required to replace any healthy trees that have been removed. A

number of municipalities in Ontario have recently adopted private tree protection policies (Oakville, Hamilton, Mississauga).

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I will work together with council, boaters and the Trumpeter Swan Coalition. I know that an environmental assessment of the LaSalle Marina Project has been completed but I would like to hear what the Ministry of the Environment has to say about the proposal.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Yes.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

I'm very supportive of community garden initiatives and would like to see more. To be honest, I would need more information about local food security and local certification labelling, as this is something I don't know enough about at this time to comment on. I look forward to learning more about it.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

I most definitely support policy that helps protect our water sources, and generally, I am supportive of adopting policies that preserve local farmland, but we need to be careful. Agriculture, like development, is an economic activity that has its own priorities and interests. Farming has environmental consequences too and agricultural lands don't necessarily equate to green space.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

As much as we all love our cars, we need to get serious about reducing their use. We cannot continue to use increased car traffic as an excuse to not make responsible planning decisions—many of which include intensifying the population of certain designated areas of the city. This does not at all mean penalizing drivers. It means making it easier to use other forms of transportation, and making it make sense. Residents will ride their bikes if it's safe and convenient to do so. There is still much work to be done on connecting our existing bike infrastructure so there is a safe and convenient north/south route as well as an east/west one. Residents will walk if what they need is within walking distance, and if walking is safe and enjoyable. Downtown initiatives like free parking on Saturdays and in December

sound like a great idea, but they do promote the use of cars and in fact, didn't really help out our downtown businesses as much as was hoped. Instead of promoting more use of our cars, I'd rather we make it easier to take transit to shop downtown, and work on connecting our bike paths and lanes. Most importantly, I'd like to work on making our city more walkable, especially in our downtown.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes. These initiatives need to be a budget priority.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

I certainly support transit-oriented development as a preferred type of new development. Higher density development concentrated near a transit station encourages makes it convenient for residents to use transit and utilizes existing infrastructure. The new condos being built adjacent to the Burlington GO station are an excellent example of this.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I have to admit, gas prices have affected the way I think about driving. I'm always hauling things around in my car, and dropping off things, so I've been putting more thought into planning the most efficient routes to run all my errands, avoiding unnecessary trips, and walking when I can. In the summer, I've been trying more to support local growers by visiting our farmers markets on a regular basis. In 2014, I'd like to ride my bike to places nearby that I'd normally drive to: Mapleview Mall, friends' homes, the bank, etc.

Marianne Meed Ward:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The key environmental issue is protecting both rural and urban green space. The rural area is protected via provincial legislation, which directs development to urban areas. City council's role is to protect urban green space during development. Conservation Halton has given us an F for our urban watershed and tree canopy, largely due to development, but the majority of councillors have approved development at the expense of green space. Example: The Branthaven development on Ghent replaced 8 homes with 58 townhomes, cut 100 trees (largest tree stand in urban Burlington) replaced by 60 saplings, and reduced green space from 70 percent to 30 percent of the lot. We need a better balance between intensification and urban green space; cramming the most units on the smallest space can't be the only goal of development. I support tree protection to prevent clear cutting before development; preserving city trees during development, maximum lot coverage to preserve green space.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes, all decisions must consider social, environmental economic impacts – and MORE than these – resident input is also key. Our residents care passionately about building a better Burlington – we need to harness that passion and expertise for a better city today and tomorrow. We also need more discussion in the community about what the triple bottom line actually means; without that discussion, and a shared understanding of what social, economic and environmental goals we have, triple bottom line is just an abstract idea, a broad label that people can make to fit any decision, and we miss opportunities to build a society that truly consider social, environmental and social goals in decisions.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes, the report is prepared quarterly for council, and provides excellent updates regarding progress on such goals as waste diversion, energy use, community gardens, community cleanups, idling and much more. The Sustainable Burlington citizen's advisory committee of council helps shape input into residential developments, to consider environmental impacts; the committee is broadening their scope to consider more than green building materials or low energy appliances but also look at broad environmental and social implications of development which is very welcome. We need to take broad view of a sustainable community, including protecting and preserving trees and green space during development and consider social cohesion for large projects, and build these targets into our Official Plan and Zoning where possible.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes, it is always important to reach for a goal, and measure progress towards that goal. What is measured gets done. There are more ways we can encourage energy efficiency beyond targets – for example, ending incentives for city employees to drive to work by ending free parking.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measurable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes. All strategic plans should have measurable targets and goals, otherwise they are lofty, abstract statements that mean little. Our entire strategic plan should be focused on outcomes for residents, not activities, results not simply inputs. That's true for the entire plan, as well as the sections specifically related to environmental outcomes.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes. We already have targets in several areas we are trying to achieve and Regional staff regularly report on items under their jurisdiction, for example waste diversion. We can engage the community by letting residents know the targets and inviting their participation to reach our goals.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes. We need to set goals like Minneapolis – a park within a five minute walk of every resident – and build those goals into our plans. In new development, we need to provide green space, not eliminate it in the name of intensification. We should review the fees charged to conservation areas – they are very high, and some families cannot afford to go. We need to enhance our existing parks and trails – our staff are working on a plan and budget for that in 2015, to provide connectivity across the city, off-road cycling routes that are safe for all ages and alternative transportation.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Resources and structure follow strategy, so let's get the strategy in place before we make assumptions about how best to support it. We need to consider what activities/resources are currently in place and how are they assigned, and examine whether they are focused on achieving the goals of our strategy. If not, we need to reassign existing activities to achieve strategic priorities. In some cases additional resources may be required; residents are supportive so long as the expenditures enhance quality of life and focus on community priorities.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes. We need a tree bylaw to prevent clear cutting land prior to development and I'm committed to introducing that. I support a focused and proactive tree planting policy, where people are aware they can request a city tree if they lose one, or don't have one; we can be more practiced in planting street trees, and ensuring development isn't so close to the street that there is no room for street trees. We need to beautify our parks – Beachway for example in places is very scrubby and can use a facelift.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Resources and structure follow strategy, so let's get the strategy in place before we make assumptions about how best to support it. We need to consider what activities/resources are currently in place and how are they assigned, and examine whether they are focused on achieving the goals of our strategy. If not, we need to reassign existing activities to achieve strategic priorities. In some cases additional resources may be required; residents are supportive so long as the expenditures enhance quality of life and focus on community priorities.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Yes, to prevent clear cutting prior to submitting development applications; limit number of trees cut at any one time; take in account large/heritage trees. I introduced those motions during the last term and there were lost on close 4-3 votes. I'm committed to working on tree protection again in the next term. We also need to provide residents with better information about resources like requesting a city tree, and how to choose and care for private trees.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

The habitat is currently protected. There have been concerns raised that plans for a permanent break wall/marina for the boating club will negatively affect the swan habitat. A preliminary Environmental Assessment found that the break wall and swans could co-exist, however serious questions have been raised about these findings, and two groups appealed for a further review to the Ministry of the Environment. Council is awaiting the results of that review before making any decisions regarding the break wall. I will not support any plans that compromise the swan habitat.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

There are already plans and guidelines in place and I think we need to continue to support and request developers consider these and explore embedding minimum standards into our planning requirements. However, environmentally friendly development is more than low energy appliances or green roofs (which many developers already provide as a marketing strategy – their customers are looking for these things). The bigger opportunity in development is: not cutting trees, not building so close to street no trees can be planted; not collecting tree money for use in parks far afield from development. These will be more difficult to achieve, but have long lasting positive impacts.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I have supported community gardens and continue to do so happening in Central and elsewhere; I will continue to support advocacy on a range of matters under provincial jurisdiction, including: that our Greenbelt be a place where farming can occur to feed our families, and reducing restrictions that make local farming more difficult. I support farm markets downtown, and welcome the new Brant Street Butcher downtown at Brant/Lakeshore that will focus on bringing in local and organic foods.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Where municipalities don't have a decision-making role, we still retain an advocacy role to support and advocate for a variety of initiatives at the provincial level that support local food production, clean water, greenbelt protection and a range of other issues. Yes, the city has a role, and we can be a leader and partner with the province to see these initiatives through at the city and regional level.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

We need to add, and add back - targeted transit routes – e.g. school specials that were cut, three new community buses with the Seniors Centre as the hub, 13000 more hours on transit service; eliminate free parking for city staff to encourage alternative transportation and carpooling; promoting economic development. We need more jobs locally; half our residents commute on average 45 km to work – too far to walk, and to cycle for most people, especially in inclement weather.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Resources and structure follow strategy, so let's get the strategy in place before we make assumptions about how best to support it. We need to consider what activities/resources are currently in place and how are they assigned, and examine whether they are focused on achieving the goals of our strategy. If not, we need to reassign existing activities to achieve strategic priorities. In some cases additional resources may be required; residents are supportive so long as the expenditures enhance quality of life and focus on community priorities.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes, we already take account of transit when approving developments, and we can continue to do more.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I gave up my free city parking spot; I walk to work and take public transit on a weekly basis. Myself and the children have Presto cards to encourage public transit use and make it easier; We buy in bulk and look for environmentally friendly products and packaging; we follow waste recycling and diversion practices; have reduced our overall consumption. We are regularly well under the garbage maximum of 2 bags per two weeks. We avoid buying products that will end up in landfill. We avoid packaged goods and processed foods to reduce waste and live more healthy. We regularly send goods we can no longer use, clothes the children have grown out of, to reuse centres. As a councillor, I am trying to paperless for agendas (a challenge!). As a member of the Joseph Brant Hospital board, I supported a move to paperless agendas and support improvements to the city's online technology to allow us to move in that direction at the city. (e.g. built in outlets in conference rooms; secure portals for confidential documents.

Philip Papadopoulos:

No responses received

Andy Porecki:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Ward 3

Jeff Brooks:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Lisa Cooper:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Banning Drive Throughs

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes. If in the final analysis this will save taxpayers money.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Which state of Environment report there are numerous versions. Council should implement best economic solutions.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

This requires more analysis but saving and reducing fuel consumption I do support.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes. On the basis of sound science and economic benefit.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes. School and community participation would be a start.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Where this could be fiscally achievable without increasing cost to taxpayers of Burlington yes.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

No

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Staff allocation and resources can be devoted if on the whole this makes sound economic sense for the community at large.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

There is no yes or no answer to this question. By our own rights as property owners for a government to step in and decide what we can and cannot do on our own land is a slippery slope. I would agree that these decisions would have to be made on a case by case basis.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

No development on their habitat.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Yes but as this is the Ontario government responsibility perhaps contacting Ms. McMahon would be a good start.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I support community gardens

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Working with local schools to create neighborhood gardens.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Yes. Of course I would be supportive of any local initiative.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

As I already own an e-bike and use it quite often as my mode of transportation for campaigning short errands and back and forth to my work place I would highly recommend this.

I would also promote reduced rates for bus ridership.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Not immediately.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I have purchased an e-bike to travel around the city. We have a vegetable garden for the last dozen years. All our lights have been converted over to LED. All appliances are gas operated where possible. We will be reducing our water consumption by more than 50% by adopting grey water utilization in the future.

John Taylor:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The most pressing environmental issue is to restrict Burlington's growth to about 200,000 people while preserving our two dominant natural features – Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment/Greenbelt. We have an OMB win to prevent a Nelson Aggregate expansion on the environmentally sensitive Mt. Nemo Plateau and a commitment from the present Ontario provincial government not to build a 400 series highway through North Burlington but we do not have compliance from the Burlington Executive Air Park with our site alteration by-law.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

YES. This is important information to aid decision making on complex issues.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

YES. I see the State of the Environment Report as an important reference document to aid Council in decision making. I also expect the Sustainable Development Committee to continue to make recommendations to Committee and Council on important issues.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

YES. We are already measuring the consumption of fuel and energy so specific targets (subject to business case analysis) are reasonable.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

YES. I believe we have objectives but they do need quantification.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

YES. Citizen knowledge and support can best be determined through our representative Citizens Panel.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

We are well underway with a natural heritage system approach in our Official Plans. An emerging issue is whether the agriculture community fully supports this approach. This is a very important issue as compatibility with agriculture and Normal Farm Practices is key to overall success. I would need to see evidence of need before supporting a strategic acquisition plan although I do support the present Cootes to Escarpment Park Plan.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

YES. These resources are already allocated.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

YES. I am a big supporter of the Urban Forest Management Plan and would like us to be more proactive in managing city owned trees and woodlots.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

YES, but subject to consideration of the total budget issues.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

NO. I believe that a case has not been made for the need for a private tree by-law despite some individual problems.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

There are some very strong and differing opinions on the construction of a permanent marina break wall at La Salle Park and its effect on the Trumpeter Swan habitat. The Environmental Assessment is now with the Minister of the Environment for a decision.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

MAYBE. As noted, the Ontario Building Code controls Ontario's building standards. The only way to bring about real change is by having the provincial government amend the Code. This is an issue for the AMO Board (the Mayor is a member) to lobby for.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

YES. Food security and agriculture are really issues for the whole Region of Halton, not just Burlington. I support the Province of Ontario getting involved in supporting local food security and urban agriculture initiatives. In 2014 I was successful in getting a budget allocation to support our second community garden at Amherst Park.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

I will continue to support community gardens and a new Harvest Festival in Burlington.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

YES. Burlington is fortunate to have its rural lands protected by the Niagara Escarpment/Greenbelt Plans as well as the City and Region Official Plans although there are disagreements between the Region and the Agriculture Community over some Natural Heritage System policies. I am sure there will be a mutually agreeable resolution. In addition, Conservation Halton has completed the required Provincial

Source Protection Policies. It will be up to the Provincial Government to implement the policies and we will follow suit in our Official Plans.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

The new Region of Halton Official Plan calls for a transit model split of 20% to be achieved by 2031 versus about 3 or 4% now. An Environmental Assessment to develop a Transportation Master Plan is underway. To me, the key issues will be the capital and operating cost to achieve the 20% transit model split and whether the public will change their transportation habits sufficiently to achieve the objective. There must be checks and balances along the way or we could find ourselves with the worst of all worlds – gridlock and an even more underutilized transit system at a much higher cost.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Our present resources are adequate. Until we get higher densities on our major transportation corridors we are best to focus on inter-regional service by enhancing GO train/bus service.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

YES - along major transportation corridors.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

In 2013 I continued to take advantage of energy savings from higher efficiency appliances and a more energy efficient vehicle. The big project in 2014 will be to remove the present attic insulation and re-insulate to a higher R value.

Ward 4

Jack Dennison:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The priority for me would be the reduction in the use of fossil fuels with a reduction in pollution and damage to the ozone layer

Actions:

-continue to green the city fleet

-keep sporting venues in the urban area where possible so alternative transportation can be used

- manage the bus routes and size of buses
- continue to support recycling efforts
- support alternative energy sources
- save and add trees and green space to benefit all
- support alternative modes of transit

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes. Continue to monitor

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes. The SER should be used as an additional component in all related decision making, particularly in our official plan

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes. Engage the public through City Talk, councillors' updates and social media

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

I am on record as working persistently to save green space and to continue to fund our strategic land acquisition account which I was instrumental in establishing. We must manage this within our existing staff compliment total.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Our annual budget process requires balancing many diverse priorities. I accept that the Urban Forest Management Plan is a priority but must be balanced with all priorities as seen by my constituents.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

I think that too many trees are lost to development, but that does not mean that no trees should ever be removed. Staff did a best practices review and did not support a blanket private tree bylaw after considerable input from the public. I still could support boundary tree protection within 1 meter of abutting lot lines. In my case, I removed 3 trees and planted 34. There may be a way to achieve goals with a policy of greater replacement than removal.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I will leave this question to the true experts and be guided by their input.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

As stated in the question, this is the Provincial Building Code, but we as a community can gather input from the public, review with our building department management, and forward recommendations to the province to consider as amendments to the OBC

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Yes.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

All agriculture initiatives will require thorough review with our agricultural community through HAAC

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Support a policy but need input from Halton agriculture and senior management for our water department.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

I have been a member of the cycling committee for 22 years (2 years before being on council). The committee and I established a cycling strategic plan in 1997 and now a comprehensive transportation master plan. I will continue to support completion of that plan. The secret to alternative modes of transit is safe comfortable facilities.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Recognizing a balance of financial priorities.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Part of the key is to locate medium and hi density residential developments adjacent to main arterial roads like Guelph and Walkers Line and Fairview and New streets. Conversion of aging plazas to mid and hi rise mixed use, retail, office and residential, is an example of this.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I now drive a hybrid car and cycle at every possible opportunity even for my campaigning.

Carol Gottlob:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

It is difficult to isolate one environmental concern or priority, because one affects the other. However I would have to say that by reducing the number of cars on the roads, we can make a difference in road safety, air quality and energy consumption. Neighbouring communities would have to do likewise to make this effective. This could be achieved through the addition of dedicated bike lanes, which require minimal maintenance, as well as incentives to use public transit (frequent rider benefits). As councillor, I would be advocating for improved transit, and I would challenge neighbouring municipalities to follow suit. If they in turn challenge their neighbouring communities, we have a chance at obtaining positive results. There needs to be more integration of between communities in achieving carbon footprint reduction through improved transit and bicycle friendly terrain.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

The triple bottom line is a good practice in evaluating the benefits of a proposed plan. Unless all three criteria are reported to Council, there is no basis for a fair evaluation. It is therefore my expectation that

staff would consistently report on all three, and if not, Council should defer a decision, but this could create unnecessary delays. I'm therefore not sure how this application could be enforced other than

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

I have reviewed the State of the Environment Report to some degree, but I am not well enough informed to comment.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

In order to set targets, it would be necessary to know what the fuel and energy consumption is in municipal operations right now, and how it has trended over the last few years. If efficiencies can be found, by all means. I think we need to be careful of asking someone to do their job and then restricting materials, resources, etc. Careful monitoring would be a better practice, and identifying inefficiencies, so they can be corrected would be more desirable.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measurable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

In principle, I do support including more measurable targets and objectives in strategic planning, however I am not well enough informed to comment at this time as to how to engage public participation.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

See #5

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

I am supportive of these initiatives and feel these could be combined under one plan. When asked if I would be prepared to support the allocation of financial and staff resources, I would offer that many initiatives could be supported and staffed under one budgetary line item.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

As I understand it, Trumpeter Swans are an introduced species and require a particular environment to survive. I would of course like to see them thrive, however, I would need more information about the Trumpeter Swans and their habitat to be able to comment.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Sustainable construction is something I would have to learn more about in order to comment effectively. What I am concerned about is managing the environmental impact of climate change. Recent events in our community (ice storm, flood) point to the need to fortify drainage systems (Tuck Creek) to minimize damage to property.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I feel with our rural/agricultural heritage, local food security and urban agricultural initiatives are important. I would look to the Province and other municipalities such as the Greater Hamilton Area to develop policy.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Other initiatives: not sure

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Not able to fully comment

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

See #1.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

See #1.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

I have two bikes and one car. Whenever possible, I walk or ride and try to shop locally. I like to think I lead by example and will continue to do so.

Doug Wilcox:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Ward 5

Paul Sharman:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Protect the greenbelt and the escarpment. Continue to pursue heritage conservation district study for the Mount Nemo plateau area and similar actions as were taken to stop the NGTA, Nelson aggregate and to achieve site plan control at the airpark

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes and have and will continue to advocate for use of such balanced measurement systems. I also believe it is incumbent on council and all stakeholders groups to ensure that complete and competent research, data collection, analysis are properly undertaken and that recommendations/decisions be fully informed, objective and respectful of the views of all citizens.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes. Its role is to inform decision making processes

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

The city has been quite ambitious in this regard already and is considered to be a leader amongst municipalities in Canada. I support continuation of this, but there is room to do better.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measurable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes, relative to the strategic priorities of the city as well as social and economic considerations

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

I totally believe in measurement and goal setting. Especially in a balanced (triple bottom line) fashion. Public engagement will occur as part of the strategic plan process and subsequent policy/implementation planning processes.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Possibly, staff will need to assess the methodology and analysis needs and will have to be undertaken in the context of the official plan review

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

It would have to be done in the context of the official plan review

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

To the degree that they are feasible. I also worry that the huge number of trees killed by EAB need to be replaced. And, the august flooding may influence short to mid-term plans

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes, within the context of all priorities

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

The professional city staff completed a very comprehensive analysis and made recommendations that were accepted by council. Planting of trees is the only significant/practical method.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

It depends on the result of the review by the government of Ontario. I expect the swans will be accommodated

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the

State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

A big issue moving forward is to understand the impact of storm water management and ground water levels on development going forward. Also, the city has to balance any recommendations against affordable housing objectives

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Possibly, it depends on where this fits in the context of the overall strategic priorities of the city. I support implementation of more community gardens. They are excellent

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Work with MPACC and the government of Ontario to change valuation practices regarding agricultural land in the green belt

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Yes. It creates a wonderful opportunity to compile associated data and perform cost benefit simulations using triple bottom line principles

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Citizens need a convenient, speedy, affordable transportation car alternative.

1. Implement an LRT line (possibly along harvester and plains roads from Burloak to York boulevard
2. Develop mobility hubs integrating all forms of transportation

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes in the context of a competent strategic plan, and analysis of options that address a holistic triple bottom line/balanced perspective

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

The principles of TOD are interesting and compelling. They should be addressed in the official plan review

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

- 1) my oldest daughter and her family live with me, creating better use of my house
- 2) set the thermostat to use less electricity and natural gas at peak hours
- 3) do not water my lawn
- 4) stopped eating meat
- 5) ensure that lights are turned off in unused rooms
- 6) mulch my lawn (weeds) when mowing

Ian Simpson:

No responses received

James Smith:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Climate Change is the number one environmental issue. The August 4th storm is further evidence of the problem. Burlington should do the following

- Improve Transit spending to at least the GTA average and develop a plan to implement the City & Region's goals of reducing daily automobile trips
- Implement a Private Tree By Law & increase the goals of improving the urban canopy
- Adopt Community Planning model for Ward5 and adopt new guidelines for site plans and rezoning applications including REAL DESIGN rules and guidelines not vague statements about so called transit friendly design. These guidelines need to be implemented as part of the official plan so any effort to set them aside would require a specific official plan amendment
- Have the Region of Halton develop a 3D modelling platform in co-operation with the Colleges & Universities in the Region. This system should allow for producing Digital Terrain Modelling of the Region, as well as populating this platform with Utilities, An Environmental inventory, Geological, Geomorphological, Roads, Utilities and Building Intelligent Modelling (BIM) to assist in making many decision effecting land use planning
- Project Management Software for City & Regional council to ensure staff reports are acted upon (eg Environmental Report of 2011)

- City programme to establish community councils and have as part of these councils' mandate citizen committees to act as stewards of Creeks, open spaces, parks and natural spaces based on the City of Burlington's Joint Venture protocol

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

This is meaningless flavour-of-the-month-business-school-speak. All decision of council must to take the environment into account.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes, the 2011 is the last one I have read and if there has been one produced I have not read it. Future reports need to be biannually published and measurements of action on recommendations published as a separate report card.

The so-called Tack Action Burlington flyers have potential, but generally these flyers are an exercise in Green Washing. Specifically the articles featuring Transit are verging on Orwellian as they often feature the many failures of this council and Burlington Transit spun as achievements. This publication needs better supervision or it needs to be eliminated as wasteful propaganda.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes, in principle

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes, in principle

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes (see answer to question one)

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes (see answer to question one)

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes, in principle

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

No, (see answer to question one)

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

In theory yes, but there should be a revenue stream to offset this

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

I support the development of a Tree Bylaw – similar to Oakville's – to protect our urban canopy on private lands (see answer to question one)

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I am opposed to the construction of a rock break-wall at LaSalle Park, if the marina is to be redeveloped, it must be done in a fashion that improves habitat, not to the detriment of habitat

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

As a design consultant, I have pressed the Present Ontario Government for some time through meetings with the former parliamentary assistant to the minister of Municipal Affairs to make changes to the OBC. Specifically to evaluate the protocols used in Pitkin County and Aspen Colorado that are amongst some of the most enlightened in the world.

I would work with other Halton councillors as well as other GTA councillors to work towards a GTA Green Standard. This can be done outside the OBC as is presently the case in the City of Toronto.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Outside City jurisdiction

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Encourage more community gardens

Have the Region expand the fresh food programme for those on social assistance

Encourage development of new farmer markets especially in Ward5

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

What exactly is this policy?

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

The City needs to develop a long-term multi-modal transportation plan that will make it easier for more Burlingtonians to walk, bike, ride transit instead of relying exclusively on their motor vehicles. We must require development to be walkable, bikeable, transit and age-friendly.

Transportation Demand management needs to be part of the mix

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Car-centric development is more expensive than sustainable, balanced systems, which will reduce our huge road and parking expenditures. Therefore, I would support the re-allocation of our some of our large road budget to develop a first-rate transit system and good pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes – but transit-oriented development by itself is not enough. I support the long-term planning, funding and development of a first class transit system in Burlington. Burlington currently has a poor transit because of inadequate municipal funding levels that are only one half of the GTA per capita average. Also, Burlington has no long-term transit plan, and no plan or intention to meet the transit growth requirements of our Official Plan (ROPA38 requires that transit modal share rise from the current 2% to 11% by 2031 – yet transit funding has been cut recently and the 10 year capital budget has no increase in transit funding)

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

My family and I have strived to reduce our environmental impact for a very long time – not just in 2013/2014

We live in a modest house, with many mature Carolinian trees on our property that act as our air conditioner – we do not use central air

We use transit and I bike – and have one older motor vehicle

Our favourite store is The Burlington Reuse Centre

Some of our produce comes from my son's organic farm in Guelph

While not Vegetarians, we've lowered our consumption of meat to an average of 3-4 days a week

In the 1990's was on the executive of the Burlington Conserver Society, involved in excess packaging campaign and worked to save the Sheldon Creek Woodlot from development

Was a founding member of transit advocacy group Bfast and currently sit on executive

Led the struggle to retain transit service in the Elizabeth Gardens and White Pines communities

Member of the MOVE Task Force – a West GTA group pushing for better transit.

Co-host of "Transit Talk", a monthly radio show on CFMU addressing transit issues

Ward 6

Angelo Bentivegna:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Our City needs to reduce its own internal and external amount of consumption regarding the use of energy. Examples: Better Street lighting technology, reduce transit fuel consumption by reducing # bus stops & shorter more direct routes. Have savings incentives for City departments.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes, we need improved reporting from all city departments on each of their existing activities. I suggest quarterly reporting from staff to insure that Council has enough time to review to make an informed decision.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

No, I have not read it through...but I am comfortable with exploring the idea of a strategic plan for an environmental multi use pathways and trails to include the greening up of our parks and facilities.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes, I would suggest that these targets become part of each department's report card.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes, providing the measureable environmental objectives is current and achievable.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

This is not an overnight solution. We must 1st. educate our own city building, facilities, etc. by getting seriously better at how we conserve energy. Secondly we need to develop standards or goals to reduce energy and finally, we must create a template for the execution to save energy.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Question is too all encompassing; I would need to have a clearer direction on what the specific inventories, etc. are and the cost of acquisition.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

I would request a need for more info & background as well as realization of funds needed & quantity of staff time required.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

I definitely see a need to enhance the Urban Forest Management Plan. We need to assess the needs and tackle the priorities.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

The need to draw on best practices is prudent here, and should be examined as to what is best for City of Burlington.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

A by-law to protect the urban canopy on private lands may be very difficult to monitor and more importantly enforce. I would need to explore the consequences and penalties involved if by-law was not followed.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

Work with private and community groups to establish a collaborative solution to secure the safety, sustainability and protection of the trumpeter swan.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Burlington is reaching build out and we will have a need to rethink how our community gets retro-fitted. Now is the time to look into more efficient and sustainable methods in our construction techniques. We will have a need to refocus and redirect some resources toward a new futurist way of building our communities.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

If our local growers and producers on agricultural lands need to certify their strawberries and tomatoes etc. we would be making our producers counterproductive in terms of sustainability. Our local agriculture community cannot afford the increased costs of more certifications. Yes, I do support community gardens.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Creating a local co-operative operation for local growers to jointly sell their products.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Must insure sources are protected (water & land) without risk through distribution.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Our transit system needs to be more rider friendly. We built this city as a bedroom community for GTA commuting. We need to bring employment in this city so we can work and live in our own community so we can walk, bike, or carpool to work.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

I believe that we can maintain our existing programs with transit by refocusing routes to run on main arteries going north-south or east-west with some exceptions where ridership meets the required #

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning

Yes, see answer #14.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

Healthy walking, reduce vehicle use in family by 50% Reducing amount of day trips to other cities and spending more time in our city parks, visiting rural farms, walking downtown.

Jim Curran:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Reducing and eliminating traffic congestion. Intra-urban traffic driving through city neighbourhoods due to increased volume on major arteries. Partial solutions are advanced signals, turning lanes, off-street parking, and a Burlington Ride Together program.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes I support triple bottom line and will endeavour to ensure that there is a strong commitment to compliance.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

The State of Environment report should be part of the decision-making process. I take note of the section regarding Storm water Management and deem it a priority.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes. This includes a VERY serious commitment to ethanol made from wood waste and other such alternative fuels.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes. This includes open, transparent competition at the Region which does not appear to be happening at the moment.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

YES. If you cannot measure it, it will not be meaningful. Public requires notification of what our benchmarks and targets are and we must engage them with clear facts on a regular basis.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

I will support land acquisition(s) if it makes sense and the taxpayers of this city can afford it within the framework of our budget.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

I will support such an allocation if it makes sense and the taxpayers of this city can afford it and on a case by case basis.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

I will need to review this in the context of our next budget to ensure that this is financially sustainable.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Yes. I oppose clear-cutting by developers. I will work to support focused, enhanced tree planting on City lands. I will encourage home-owners to plant trees on their own property. I will support an annual "Trees in Burlington" Report to measure progress.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I require more research on this issue. The Hamilton Port Authority currently has the legal responsibility for this issue.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

I need to know more about this issue and look forward to meeting with you if I am elected.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

No, I will not direct staff, however I will ask council to support such a direction.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Area specific community markets such as those that take place in the Burlington Mall.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Yes. We require: Stronger storm water management. Enhanced waste water compliance. Elevated waste water standards to reduce abnormal effluent into our waterways. Full, open and transparent competition for waste water and water pipe systems. End concrete monopolies. Repair old pipe systems before they break. Protect homeowners from floods. It could happen to anyone.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Commuter ride programs with incentives for users. Enhanced GO parking. Continued enhanced GO Train service. Rapid express busses for our commuters to get to their transit alternatives such as GO hubs and stations.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

I am prepared to do so on a case by case basis as required and if funds are available.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning

Yes I do.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

Our household enjoys buying locally as often as possible. It is not unusual for us to venture to local farms for our produce, fruits, honey, jams etc. In our house we apply as many energy saving principles as possible, from programming our furnace to off-peak usage of electric appliances to recycling whatever is recyclable including electronics and furniture

Pardeep Kaur Dosanjh:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Jennifer Hlusko:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Protecting our waterfront and rural lands. That means the only type of development left for Burlington is through intensification. However, this must take into account the character of the community, the opinions of residents, the needs of the City and the demands placed on us by provincial legislation (Places to Grow). Urban green space is required and has been proven to lessen stress.

A very close second is to focus on climate change. The Aug 4th flood has taught us that we need to implement flood mitigation measures and create a storm water management plan. I like staff's proposal to have playing fields have the capacity to serve double-duty as temporary storm water ponds.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes absolutely. Council needs to task the City Manager with this expectation and return any staff report that doesn't meet the expectation.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes I have read Burlington State of the Environment Report IV and feel it raises many excellent points. I think they should be considered in the decision making process.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes, absolutely. In late 2010, the HDSB hired Suzanne Burwell to audit ways HDSB could improve its environmental approaches. In Jan 2011, long before the Ministry asked for each school board's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, Suzanne gave a phenomenal Prezi presentation to trustees.

She and her staff have implemented every commitment, both hard and soft measures, which has made an enormous difference. I will endeavour to get a copy of the HDSB's most recent 5yr plan, which was submitted to Ministry June 30, 2014.

I would share her findings with City staff and Council and ask her to give a presentation.

HDSB #11029 Report on Environmental Sustainability Status (S. Burwell) can be found:

<http://hlusko.wordpress.com/2014/02/11/board-feb-16-2011/>

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes. I'd like to share the work of Suzanne Burwell. She has brought amazing change to Board offices and schools.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

If the "associated strategic acquisition plan" means the government usurping agriculture land as they have done in the last two decades, then no I do not support this.

Question 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

No.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes, absolutely. I am an avid enthusiast for promoting native plantings with appropriate species diversity while avoiding invasive plants. Burlington residents need a Council that is dedicated to protecting trees – to filter air pollution, to reduce energy use, to provide homes and food to wildlife, to provide privacy and absorb noise, to lower human stress and increase happiness.

I have had three experiences that have helped to formulate my thoughts around the responsibilities of government for tree management.

I was the trustee for Charles R. Beaudoin PS when Tyler Cooper, a 10yr old grade 5 student, was killed by a falling tree while on a class field trip at the RBG Arboretum on the morning of Fri Nov 5, 2004. I'll never forget that day, nor will any of Tyler's fellow students or the involved staff and parent volunteers. Tyler's parents, Gary and Verbena, and sister Danielle attend CRB's graduation ceremony every year (in the gymnasium dedicated to Tyler) to support the deserving winner of the Tyler Cooper Athletic Achievement Award. (donations accepted here).

Secondly, I am a rural resident and as such, spent Christmas 2013 without power due to the ice storm. I think we learned through the December 2013 ice storm, that Hydro One's 6yr cycle of pruning trees along large transmission lines and rural Burlington needs to be shortened, perhaps to the 3yr cycle that Hydro follows for pruning trees along the urban utility rights of way.

Editor's Note: *In order to respect the request to keep responses to roughly 200 words, the balance of this response has been deleted.*

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes, absolutely. I believe we can decrease Burlington's asthma, allergy and cancer incidence through achieving these targets.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

This is a tricky question. I can only answer how I feel, but the implementation of such a bylaw would require intense public input. I would support a private tree bylaw that preserves significant healthy trees of a specified circumference that are native species. Also, I support a no clearing policy.

Halton Region Tree Bylaw 121-05 for woodlands came into effect Jan 1st 2006

http://www.halton.ca/planning_sustainability/agriculture_environment/tree_bylaw/

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

While I am waiting to read the Ministry of the Environment's review of the proposed LaSalle Park Marina expansion " break wall project, my support naturally goes to doing everything we can to support the 200 Trumpeter Swans that over-winter there.

I have read all the information made available by the Trumpeter Swan Coalition. As a veterinary student, I worked each summer with Dr. Bruce Hunter at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC). Bruce was very close with my late mother and I was very fortunate to have him in my life. He was godfather to my son, Jeremy. Bruce's wife, Daina, is godmother to my other son, Jamie. Tragically, Bruce died unexpectedly on Oct. 19, 2011, at the age of 61.

Dr. Hunter hired me in 1982 to help his work with injured birds. We started OVC's Wild Bird Clinic. I spent many days working with Kay McKeever at the Owl Foundation in Vineland Station. By 1987, Dr. Hunter expanded the work to include the Wild Bird Clinic Education Program, and began traveling around Ontario to share the stories of wild bird rehabilitation. One such journey involved Dr. Hunter and his montage of wild birds coming to my children's elementary school for a presentation I assisted with.

Unfortunately, the Wild Bird Clinic closed, but in 2010 the Wild Bird Clinic Education Program underwent its final reincarnation and became Wild Ontario.

Editor's Note: *In order to respect the request to keep responses to roughly 200 words, the balance of this response has been deleted.*

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Yes, I have read the documents, but found them very dense and difficult to get through. I don't understand why the City doesn't provide an executive summary with highlights in plain language.

BurlingtonGreen "Citizens for a Greener Community" 14-01-14 delegation to Council

- CEP is too dense and technical; difficult to read "grasp
- aligns with other municipalities 1-2% energy reduction per year
- need to improve GHG greenhouse gas emission target
- total energy reduction of only 1.3% per year. =lower than other municipalities
- reduction cannot occur without increasing use of public transit

<http://hlusko.wordpress.com/2014/08/31/overcoming-apaty-about-climate-change/>

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

While I support the idea, I do not believe it is a Municipal issue. I firmly believe there is not enough money to do all I'd like to do, therefore wouldn't direct precious dollars toward something Municipalities do not control. As a trustee, I have had several meetings with members of the Halton Food Council and fully support their work.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Let's start with leaving farmers alone to do their work.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food "Water First" policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Once again, that is a provincial issue, not a Municipal issue. I personally support it, but it is not within the mandate of Municipalities.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

I have been pushing for 3 years for a commitment to build a pedestrian bridge across Dundas Street. Many, many parents of students attending Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS justifiably fear the risk of their child being struck by a vehicle while crossing Dundas St to/from school. I believe a fully accessible pedestrian bridge will improve safety for all but also decrease the number of vehicles driving to the school, Haber Recreation Centre, Alton branch of the Burlington Public Library, Norton Skate Park, splash pad, etc.

<http://hlusko.wordpress.com/2014/06/25/new-dundas-street-community-safety-zone/>

I support Bike Lanes, especially to provide a safe means of travelling over the QEW/Hwy 403.

Urban Planning: I believe Council needs to set targets for sustainable development.

For instances, why did Planning approve the Ward 6 Walmart? Far too much land was taken up by this project. There should have been several floors built above Walmart. The City could have achieved the Places to Grow goals by providing residential units above Walmart thereby decreasing the density of homes in Alton.

I support the recommendations here:

<http://hlusko.wordpress.com/2014/08/24/changes-needed-to-be-an-age-friendly-city/>

Instead of providing free downtown parking spaces to City employees, perhaps staff who were interested could be enticed to take public transit by providing discounted fares.

It's all about being creative, flexible and open-minded.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes if it means what I think it does.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

We are very careful with water. We capture rainwater and re-use it.

Short showers.

Don't heat our pool.

Drought tolerant planting; do not water plants after 1st year. Apply composted mulch twice yearly. Remove invasives. etc.

Buy local food (Hutchinson's Farms).

Keep the heat low in the winter; put on sweaters.

Car pool to HDSB events and personal functions.

Will be investigating a solar roof in 2015.

Participate in CUGU events. Promote eco schools and environmental awareness in our schools.

Blair Lancaster:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

There are many environmental issues that need to be addressed at the City of Burlington. But rather than making one more important than the other I believe the biggest issue is the relationship and support of the various levels of Government. In my view we do not work in partnership with the people who regulate these issues. Therefore I believe the priority should be to establish trusted relationships with the MOE, and The Federal and Provincial Governments so that we are working together and eliminating gaps in order to achieve results.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

During my past term on Council I advocated for a Best Practice approach in the Cities service delivery that measures results. In 2015 our Council will have fully implemented Results Based Accounting Practices and Service Based Management systems that will accomplish this. The next step will be to consider a Triple Bottom Line in this assessment.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Yes I have reviewed the State of the Environment Report. The Strategic Plan entitled "Burlington Our Future" was influenced by the State of The Environment Report and adds to an already aggressive City of Burlington approach to the environment. Burlington has had a strong effort from staff and Council in working on environmental issues in the following five general categories – Energy, Transportation, Air & Climate, Natural Environment and Waste. The City is active not only in the area of how they operate City services, but also encouraging all residents of our community to become involved in environmental issues in their homes and businesses. I would expect this to continue.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes I believe targets and measurements will assist us in making improvements.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation? Yes

Engaging students has proven to be the most effective way of making change in Environmental issues. I believe what we have accomplished in the area of Recycling could be expanded to include other Environmental Issues such as transportation. To make change we must educate our future generations. I am currently working with Hayden School students to create opportunities for students to hang on their trash rather than tossing it on the road.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Protecting our green space is important, and I have supported initiatives including the Cootes to Escarpment Paradise. I do not believe it's realistic to think we could afford a huge acquisition of green space in the future. Acquisition could be explored using options like donations and sponsorship. I am in support of the Heritage System overlay that is currently proposed, as long as we continue to recognize agriculture as an important part of Burlington's heritage.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Further discussion required.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Our tree canopy is important to the health and sustainability of our community and it is important for the City to monitor changes and make improvements. The City currently maintains all of the trees on Public lands including the boulevards. Through consultation with our community it was very clear that our residents do not want the City of Burlington to tell them what to do on their private lands and regardless the City could not afford to take on the responsibility of managing trees on private lands. The City of Burlington could definitely have a role in support and education to help residents understand the importance of this initiative and by helping them to address risks from threats such as the Emerald Ash Boar and future development impacts to our tree canopy.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I look forward to protecting the natural habitat at LaSalle by working with the MOE, the residents and LaSalle Boaters association once we have factual and informed information on this issue.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

I support silver LEED standard sustainable development that considers storm sewer management, energy, air quality and transportation. Our sustainable development committee has provided a tremendous amount of leadership in this regard and I will continue to look to them for their insight and direction. Together we can and will make improvements that take into consideration the social and economic impacts that affect us.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

I am currently working with both the Region's and Burlington's Agricultural committees and while in principle certification labelling is a good idea, I would have to engage in discussions with our Agricultural community to understand the impacts this might have on them. Sometimes the best ideas have unintended consequences and our Agricultural Community needs support not more rules and levels of government. I have supported the community gardens and believe that we could do much more in both these and Harvest Programs. I was very disappointed that Burlington Green was not willing to continue the partnership started for community gardens with the City of Burlington.

***Editor's Note:** BurlingtonGreen was very willing to continue the community garden project with the City of Burlington however the level of risk and responsibilities required by the City were beyond the scope of what our not-for-profit service model was able to provide. BurlingtonGreen is proud to have introduced & established a very successful 2 year community garden pilot program located at Central Park that led to solution-focused recommendations being acted on by the City so that the Community Garden program can grow and be sustainable for years to come.*

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Our Agricultural Committee is currently working on initiatives to promote Agriculture in our community, such as educational community events that highlight Agriculture as an important part of our community. I believe we must create an environment in our community that values the use of local foods. Restaurants and Grocers that feature it and a community that is willing to use it. Our community once grew their own food and made the effort to can and freeze it for their use. Providing education in our schools, libraries and food networks would go a long way to assisting our community to re-establish these practices.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

I would look forward to a better understanding of what role our Region could play.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

As a member of Council, I have been involved in the review of the Official Plan that features “mobility hub opportunities” in conjunction with Burlington’s Cycling Master Plan and Burlington’s improved transit services, we are taking action on environmental issues. I have also been involved in making changes to our Transit system that will provide more efficiency and better serve our community. I am committed to making changes that make sense and improve services that our community will use. I served on the Transit Master Plan Committee and one of the first actions taken by the committee was to collect data that would recognize needs of our community. We still do not meet the needs of our community which is essential to getting more folks on the bus. Much work still needs to be done.

I have also been supportive of cycling lanes and multi-use pathways that connect our City. Recently Council supported snow clearing for the pathways, which will go a long way in assisting residents in walking during the winter months.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Absolutely, I wish this had been in place when the City of Burlington was developed. Any new development should have to consider transit and it is imperative that we develop mobility hubs to assist us in the future.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

1. Continue to explore more ways to recycle. Including a program with students at Hayden High School. I will encourage residents and businesses to get involved in recycling initiatives. I participated and promoted technology recycling initiatives.
2. Continue to explore water and electricity conservation, including purchasing products that contribute to this, solar garden lights etc.
3. Look for and applaud lead standards in development projects
4. Promote the use of Transit and other sustainable modes of transportation. Served on the Transit Master Plan Committee.

5. Continued support for the protection of the Escarpment from a Hwy
6. Promoted walking and cycling at Charles Beaudoin School
7. Held a Car Free Sunday Festival in Ward Six
8. Will continue to promote solar and wind energy

Jivan Sanghera:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Shoaib Shams:

No responses received

Ishar Thiara:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Mina Wahidi:

No responses received

Vanessa Warren:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

I think we have two key priorities:

The first will be dealing with the City's budgetary addiction to development fees. We need to develop a financial model that will support our sustainable planning goals and prevent any further greenfield/Greenbelt development.

The second will be our response to climate change: both to insure that our infrastructure will not fail during increasingly severe weather events, and to play a leading role in Municipal carbon reduction.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

Yes. I fully support the application of the triple bottom line in all decision making – it is the only way to review all facets of a decision and avoid unintended consequences.

Too many times in Staff reports to Committee or Council, the subheading 'Environmental Concerns' is either not present, or mistakenly discounted with a terse 'NA'. All staff reports should discuss the economic, environmental and social impacts of a recommended decision. This will also help to avoid errors in public engagement (like the Alton Courthouse <http://ward6news.ca/2014/04/11/proposed-courthouse-in-alton-village/>), making decisions not only 'greener', but also more collaborative.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision-making process?

The SOER report contains some outstanding recommendations, and, as a document developed by a volunteer committee, needs to be recognized as a substantial achievement. This should be a strategic reference document for Council, as well as for staff when reporting to council (as in question 2).

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes. Objectives without measurable are of limited use. I would also encourage and support the inclusion of measurable objectives in the provincial policy review of the Greenbelt.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Yes, where possible, targets should be established. For example (and to draw on an SOER Recommendation), to divert waste by recycling more plastics and styrofoam through our Regional Waste Management system should be a priority with targets, whereas affecting air quality is beyond the scope of municipal control and targets.

The role of Council and the municipality is to lead by example, create great policy (with measurable targets), and constantly demonstrate the foresight and political will to create change.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes, but with the caveat that the creation of a green space/natural heritage system does not hinder a vibrant agricultural industry.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes. Thoroughly.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

I am not adequately educated on the need for this type of by-law vs. our ability to finance and enforce it - particularly in the context of existing Municipal, Regional and Provincial legislation.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

On November 4th, 2013, I delegated to City Council regarding the LPMA expansion and the Trumpeter Swan habitat (<https://vanessawarrenburlington.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/november-4th-delegation.pdf>, or at the 26:10 mark of the Council webcast: <http://hosting.captual.com/burlington/1/watch/397.aspx>)

I am firmly against an expansion of the current marina because I am interested in protecting our vision for a public waterfront, the public purse, AND the swan habitat.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

In the context of a triple bottom line, incentivizing green development through our tax and development fee regime may cost immediate revenue, but generates savings environmentally and socially that I believe will pay enormous future dividends. These types of development initiatives must be sewn into the fabric of all of our economic development efforts throughout the City – otherwise we are merely borrowing money from our own futures.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Yes. Enthusiastically.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Food and agricultural security and sustainability are tied to the industry's ability to innovate and grow - something that can sometimes seem at odds with competing objectives (like, for example, Natural Heritage protections) - especially on farms that fringe urban areas as they do in Burlington. We need to diligently support farmers so that they continue to own and steward our rural lands – our local food production capacity must be valued (by all levels of government) as greater than potential development lands.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

I have requested through delegations to Council that Burlington become a Food and Water First City and I have taken the Food and Water First Pledge (<http://foodandwaterfirst.com/pledge/>) and the Greenbelt Pledge (<http://www.greenbelt.ca/pledge>).

One of the ways that I have supported this initiative is in requesting and supporting a new Site Alteration Bylaw that will help to protect our soil and water from contamination and decreased permeability. (<http://ward6news.ca/2014/09/13/my-delegation-to-the-development-and-infrastructure-committee-from-september-8th/>)

I also sit on the Ontario Soil Regulation Task Force, a provincial coalition of citizens groups seeking a provincial Clean Soil Act.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

We need a complete Transit/Transportation Master Plan that integrates into Regional and Provincial plans (like the Metrolinx 'Big Move'). We then need to plan development around our transit (or cycling etc.) structure. Our current model of piecemeal transit backfilling after planning and development will never create a viable system that will encourage people to leave their cars at home.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Yes. Fervently. See my answer to question 14.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

In 2013 I was heavily involved in advocacy work to protect our rural north as well as our waterfront, our agricultural community, and our urban green spaces. I participated in BurlingtonGreen's "Clean Up Green Up" event in Alton Village and worked to further 'green' my home and farm businesses through reductions in energy consumption and waste diversion. I try to buy local food directly from farmers

whenever possible, and would like to increase my knowledge of (and consumption from) local food producers.

Halton Regional Chair

Gary Carr:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

I believe we need to continue to protect the environment. As Regional Chair I implemented the green cart. Before I became Chair the Region's diversion rate was 40% and we were one of the worst in Ontario at diverting waste from our landfill. We now have a 60% diversion rate which is now one of the best in Ontario. This diversion rate has increased the life of our landfill to 2044 protecting the environment and saving taxpayer 1 billion dollars for the cost of a new landfill site. Under my leadership we stopped the expansion of the NELSON quarry and in so doing protected our green space in Burlington. I also helped stop the GTA west and the GTA Niagara highways that threatened to encroach on our farm land in Halton. We need a Chair with strong experienced leadership, and a proven track record at protecting our environment and our natural heritage.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

The Region has the most comprehensive environmental protection plan in our official plan. To view the details go to www.halton.ca and check out under planning.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

Our strategic plan incorporates the best protection for the environment. Our official plan and strategic plan guides all of our decisions.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

The Region already has a plan in place to reduce fuel and energy use. Check out our landfill gas capture program at www.halton.ca.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

The Region's strategic plan already has measurable environmental objectives and so does our official plan. You can view them at www.halton.ca.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Halton already is a leader in waste diversion, air quality, and water and energy conservation and our strategic plan and official plan includes further targets. As Regional Chair I started the citizens priority action plan and My View Point (MVP) which is one of the best forums for public engagement in all of Canada. Further details can be found at www.halton.ca.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

The Halton Region official plan which includes provisions to protect our natural heritage and green spaces was passed unanimously by all regional councillors and Burlington, Oakville, Milton, and Halton Hills councils. Our budgets at the region supports our official plan.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

The Region's forest plan already is the best in all of Ontario and is supported by our budget.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

The local municipalities have responsibilities for these by-laws.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

The Region's plans already protect the trumpeter swans.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Building codes are a local responsibility.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Halton already has a local food security plan. You can check out our programs at www.halton.ca.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

The Region's official plan is the best in Ontario. It is comprehensive and supports agriculture and our water quality.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Halton Region won an award for being one of the top regions for our smart commute program. Check it out at www.halton.ca.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Halton region already supports the local municipalities in transit planned development. The region has a BRT planned for Dundas and Trafalgar.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

The Region of Halton is a leader in all of Canada at protecting our environment and natural heritage. Our corporate sustainability program under our strategic plan can be found at www.halton.ca.

Syed Ali Naqvi:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

In my humble opinion, the #1 environmental priority before Burlington is keeping a balance between our environment and development planning. The planning I refer to includes housing, transit and infrastructure with obvious implications for water and sewage, drainage and flood control, garbage disposal, and ground water stewardship. It also has implications for affordable/rent controlled housing and commercial development planning. By environment I imply stewardship of our environmental resources including our conservations areas, green areas, older trees, ground-water, and harbour front. If elected I would mandate maintaining this balance for our environment's sake.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

I fully support this approach inasmuch as it is practically and logistically possible to apply and comply with. I will ensure that it is observed as a best practice in our domain of work across the Regional Government inasmuch as possible.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

It is a relevant and necessary read and should be incorporated in present and future policy, programme, and project planning.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Yes.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measureable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

Yes as far as logistically and practically possible.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

Most definitely. I would engage the public/concerned citizens through campaigns.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes. Not only for Burlington but for the entire Halton Region as we are stewards of a priceless natural heritage that merits being safeguarded beyond our transient lives for future generations.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

I would love to and would definitely start by looking at available funds, try to get more funds and allocate resources as much as possible.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes as much as practically possible.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

Yes; through By-laws to be drafted in consultation with experts and approved, and enforced efficiently.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

By-laws to be drafted in consultation with experts and approved; and then enforced strictly.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

Yes. I am devoted to energy conservation and green energy, green buildings, and recycling, Infrastructural energy audits and emissions control measures. I would advocate, help promote, and apply these and other proven ideas/innovations. I would also engage the relevant quarters to incorporate these into the Ontario Building Code if necessary.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

Yes by all means. My time spent at the Ministry of agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs has given me good insight into such initiatives.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

Some of my suggestions include:

- Inducing Local produce markets/exchanges/promotions;
- gaining resources for these from provincial, federal and other bodies;
- emulating best practices from other jurisdictions like the US Feed the Future programme; incentives for local food security initiatives to growers, and
- having abundant affordable supply.

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food & Water First policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Yes. Follow prescribed and proven best practices.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

Comprehensive Planning is lacking in this respect. It is a question that transcends all tiers of government. All need to be engaged and committed to pursue and agreed upon long-term solution. I would definitely support and facilitate such solutions that are long-lasting and give us the best value for our dollar. I have raised this with our country's top policy makers and I would do that again.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Oh yes.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

Certainly.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

My family buys most of our food items locally as much as possible. We try to buy free run eggs from neighbourhood farms. Same for locally grown produce like fruits etc. We try to grow some ourselves but not as much as we should.

We are big on recycling. We do not use pesticides. We re-use a lot of our stuff or donate it.

I have invested in solar energy generation. I have also done energy audits for the properties my wife and I possess and have complied with energy saving recommendations. I have changed 90% of my household bulbs to energy saver ones. The rest are to follow. We try not to use our dryer as much as possible when there is sunshine outside. I am thinking of buying a hybrid car soon. We try to plan ahead and group our tasks to save trips and gas.

We do not have cable at home so we can do more meaningful tasks and save energy.

John Paulic:

This candidate was not in the race when the invitations to participate were issued and so no responses are available

Gregory Woodruff:

Question 1: What do you believe to be the #1 environmental priority for Burlington and if elected, what specific actions would you take to tackle the issue?

Planning and reforming transportation should be the top priority. Intensification is a scheme where instead of expanding city borders new residents will be located within existing borders - increasing population density for all. This dovetails in with keeping the green belt a more rural area and a host of possible environmental benefits. We need to create a city living experience so compelling it trumps people's desire to move out into the green belt. If we fail at this no legal recourse will be sustainable, development pressure on the green belt will just rise endlessly. Worse yet increasing density without

increased amenities can place Halton into the same cycle that traps many cities and turns many areas into slums. The primary benefit of living in the city is proximity to services and amenities. People want to get to work, visit friends, go to a restaurant, etc as quickly as possible. This is where transportation comes in. Currently the primary mode of transportation is cars. If the density increase results in a degraded road network then the time to access these services keeps expanding. At some point the road network is so congested that people stop going places. Businesses close and people with financial resources leave the area. This is very difficult to stop once started. Fast flowing transportation is key.

Editor's Note: In order to respect the request to keep responses to roughly 200 words, the balance of this response has been deleted.

Question 2: Do you support the application of the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) to all decisions taken by the City and what will you do to ensure that these criteria are consistently reported by staff for Council consideration?

"Triple bottom line" seeks to advise decisions by considering more than the economic effect. The city has endless reports and "advice". What it does not have is mechanisms to enforce development in a way that creates these ideas on the ground. It's an interesting approach to informing zoning rules, but only by strict application of zoning rules can the staff affect the actual reality of the city.

Question 3: Have you reviewed the State of the Environment Report? What role do you feel it should play in regards to the City's Official and Strategic Plans and Council's decision making process?

I have reviewed the comprehensive "State of the Environment Report." It should be a factor in Council's decision making, but again the real issue is what is informing approval of projects. I've seen development after development approved with absolutely no regard to any principle in this report that I can see. As an example I have seen staff cheerlead developments that not only cut down existing old growth trees, but change the land so large trees may never grow again. I have several times reported a development is not consistent with greening and urban forest principles. The city "collects" your comment, then the development is approved with no changes. We need mechanisms that actually change the building approval process. Right now I see absolutely no accountability that we are approving actual buildings consistent with this report or any other.

Question 4: Would you be prepared to establish specific targets for reducing fuel and energy usage in municipal operations?

Simple energy efficiency steps will always be welcome. It's possible that cities can expand services while reducing energy per capita. Though it might not be the best moment to target or cap energy consumption for municipal operations. Intensification done right is going to require re-works of many aspects of city operations. The extra population is going to require an expansion of municipal operations all over the place. It's probably better to focus on transforming the city in the short term. We will save far more energy in the long run getting people walking around a green dynamic city than anything else.

Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of measurable environmental objectives in the municipal strategic plan and any other official plans including the Region?

We definitely need measurable environmental objectives. There is a danger that intensification is making the main objective population density at the expense of all others. The problem is that these “objectives” don't translate down the line. At some point you have to deny a development based on the fact it “fails to maintain the urban canopy” or the like. Right now a development requires consideration of elements like the effect on the watershed. Issues like the urban canopy need to be moved into similar levels of consideration. As long as these issues are considered “nice to haves” at the macro level they will not get forced into any actual development.

Question 6: Do you support the establishment of targets for the community in such areas as waste diversion, air quality, water and energy conservation (and other issues)? If you do, what ideas do you have to effectively engage public participation?

I'm not sure that any individual will feel bound to a “community target.” I am in general not in favour of universally applied limits. As an example right now we have a situation where every house no matter the size is under the same waste limits. Obviously this places large families under far stricter per capita limits than others. I'm more on the side of providing high quality services to residents than thinking “limits” will gain traction. Halton had a high rate of waste diversion before any waste limits. Things like mechanical pickup of garbage will allow us to weigh accurately by household and provide a better experience for residents. People's blue boxes seem to overflow. Getting a larger container with a lid should only help to engage them. A couple times a year I would like to see curbside pickup of hazardous and toxic items. We could introduce battery and compact florescent light pickup - no one wants these things in the regular garbage. I think the best way to get public participation is to add a service that helps people do the right thing for the environment. Enforcing a “limit” without the mechanisms that help residents make better environmental choices would not be my approach. Partnering with residents to make those choices easy, would be.

Question 7 (a): Do you support the creation of a green space/natural heritage system master plan that identifies, inventories, maps, prioritizes and increases all Burlington green spaces with an associated strategic acquisition plan?

Yes. We definitely need a growing pool of money that allows Burlington to expand existing green space. Really great walkable cities have the flavor of a park you never leave. I see no reason why we can not organize that as a goal here.

Questions 7 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes.

Question 8 (a): Do you support the objectives and annual planning targets outlined in the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Yes, the Urban Forest is critical. With global warming planting trees is a simple local thing we can do to help. Beyond the environmental benefits; people like trees. They are going to start demanding that “tree-lined” feel from communities or they will take their money and jobs elsewhere. Again there is no mechanism in this report to change development habits. I would like to go much farther in terms of overhanging sidewalks and parking, in particular, with trees.

Question 8 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these targets?

Yes.

Question 9: Do you support a by-law or other mechanism to protect the urban canopy on private property / lands? If yes, what measures do you propose? If no, why not?

I like the idea of a property tax credit for properties that contain large trees. Maintaining large trees is a lot of work. I think paying even a small amount to people would send a signal that the community values the extra work that goes into maintaining these trees for everyone. This could be paid for by imposing a fee for cutting large trees. Could be administered with aerial and satellite photography in a cost-effective way.

Question 10: If elected, what steps will you take to protect the trumpeter swan habitat at LaSalle Park?

I was at the Plains Road Village Vision meeting where this topic was presented on by a volunteer from the marina. The Environmental Studies Report seems to have touched on lots of issues and reports both the swans and break water can co-exist under the design proposed. Even if they theoretically “can” live in the changed environment - I'm not sure that is sufficient. The plan suggests placing boats along 50% of the entire park. Even if the Swans are willing to live in this environment sandwiched between boats and the coastline it's a radically less natural environment. I fear the debate has become if the swans can “get by” with the new setup. I oppose it because it blocks off more of our already limited water front. Chair has no direct control on this issue, but I would recommend the Marina be expanded out into the bay in a way that doesn't over power the access to the water from Lasalle park for trumpeter swans, other birds and people alike.

Question 11: As the Ontario Building Code controls Burlington's building standards, if elected will you take action to further advance sustainable construction standards (e.g. per recommendations in the State of the Environment Report, the Community Energy Plan, Sustainable Development Committee principles)? If yes, what ideas do you have to advance these types of initiatives?

We should continue to encourage energy efficiency and low impact building materials. Several charts in the Community Energy Plan easily hit home the point that old houses are using much more energy than new ones. We obviously have the technology to fix this waste of energy that benefits no one and now we just need to work out the financial details. I'd like programs that interact with the hydro companies to implement energy efficient upgrades and have the cost taken out of future hydro bills. For example; if you can create programs where you say to a homeowner, we can come in and upgrade the insulation in

your attic and this will save you something on your hydro bill, that seems very compelling. All this data is available between the city and hydro companies.

Question 12 (a): If elected, will you direct staff to work with the Province to develop a policy on local food security support (such as local certification labelling), and urban agriculture initiatives (such as harvest programs and supporting community gardens)?

With an increased emphasis on quality locally grown foods seems a good opportunity to market the region and local produce. It seems to me like a big resurgence is underway here. Imagine the marketing power of making the entire green belt an organic pesticide-free zone. Imagine little green stickers on restaurant doors certifying they only use locally-sourced organic ingredients. It is not hard to see the opportunity to create a self-reinforcing cycle of attracting people interested in this sort of thing into the area.

Question 12 (b): What other initiatives to support local food security would you recommend?

See my response to question 12 (a).

Question 13: Do you support the adoption of a provincial Food "Water First" policy and what steps will you take locally to support this initiative?

Protecting local farm land and fresh water are great objectives. The key to protecting them is to reduce the desire for people to live in remote areas. With Intensification and the Green Belt, the province is setting up two distinct regions. The Intensification zone where all development will go and the "Green Belt" that will stay as pristine as possible for the foreseeable future. Now if the "Intensification Zone" transitions into a grey car-choked slum, people with economic means will go elsewhere. Eventually the pressure of demand will crack the legal protections that have been set up and farmland will start being chipped away again. I think that only by building green, vibrant cities can we entrench any lasting protection for the countryside.

Question 14 (a): What ideas do you have to help reduce the use of cars in our city and to promote other more environmentally sustainable methods of transit?

I'd like to see a real focus on enhancing the pedestrian experience. The sidewalk in lots of areas is jammed against the roadway when a continuous walking path could be worked out along the line of stores. I don't find it appealing to walk near roadways no matter the speed or demeanour of cars nearby. Most of the "walkable" cities separate pedestrians from cars as much as possible. I don't think the idea of "slowing" or "calming" traffic so people will want to walk among it is a good approach. Even at very low speeds cars cause fatal collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists. Walking where this threat is constant is a big negative to the pedestrian experience. The area has been built up with little concern for the location of buildings. People use cars to cross vast distances quickly so it matters little. If you have any hope of transitioning them into active transportation, it has to be quick to get where you are going. We need to enforce the requirement of building truly usable commercial spaces near people's homes.

Question 14 (b): Are you prepared to support an allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve these initiatives?

Yes.

Question 15: Do you support the adoption of transit-oriented development in planning requirements?

I support transit-oriented development in planning. We desperately need an integrated plan that decides where transit links will go and intensifies around planned links. Currently larger buildings seem to be going up all over the place. Just making it an unenforced "policy" does no good. We need mechanisms to enforce that transit options exist before developments occur.

Question 16: What actions have you taken in 2013 to live more sustainably and what actions have you taken or do you intend to take in 2014 to do so?

1. Started buying organic fruit, dairy, and meat. 2. Began switching to more natural personal care and cleaning products based on ratings by the Environmental Working Group and avoiding products containing the "Dirty Dozen" chemicals. 3. Began making our own natural cleaning solutions from recipes provided by the David Suzuki Foundation's Queen of Green. In 2014 I would like to: 1. Look into efficiently processing green waste at home. 2. Reduce the purchase of packaged food in favour of what is seasonally available.