



**Candidate Questionnaire**  
**2018 Municipal Election**

Candidate: Allan Hazelton [www.AllanHazelton.ca](http://www.AllanHazelton.ca)

Please use as much space as you require to fully answer the questions.

**General**

- Please provide a short bio of your Professional, Community and Municipal experience and explain how your particular skills will enhance decision making at Council.

I have retired from a professional sales career selling Customer Service and Customer Experience Solutions to Executives at Fortune 500 companies in North America.

I have over 40 years of volunteer experience with organizations like the Georgian Bay Association (GBA), the Honey Harbour Association, The Go Home Lake Cottagers Association, and the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA). This has involved representing cottager and resident interests to local government, the OMB, as well as to Ontario and Federal government ministries.

My Customer Service and Customer Experience expertise will enable me to bring a caring resident focused approach to my role as Councilor. My executive sales expertise will enable me to bring strong skills in communication, problem solving, negotiating, and results orientation.

**Services, Taxation and Good Governance**

- Describe your two highest priorities for our municipality, in the short term and the long term?

My top two priorities are:

1. To achieve a transparent balanced representation of the interests of the residents in my Ward and in the Township.



2. To bring extreme focus on Water Quality and Environmental protection. Without clean water and a protected environment, what do we have, why do we come here?

- Many constituents believe that the services provided to seasonal residents are not commensurate with the taxes paid. What steps would you take to address this concern?

I have heard several comments from residents who express concerns about the services received for the taxes paid. I am committed to looking at all possible avenues to reduce unnecessary expenses and to focus on ways that we can improve the effectiveness in the delivery of the services we need. This will include but not be limited to driving the District to be more effective in delivering the services they are responsible for.

### **Environment**

- Summarize your position on maintaining a balance between environmental sustainability and economic development. How important is it, and is a balance currently being maintained?

I believe that environmental sustainability should be the driving factor before any economic development. I have participated in the Strategic Planning sessions for the Township, for Port Severn, and for the Hamlet of Honey Harbour. These all reflect the need to focus development first in areas like Port Severn where public services for Water and Sewer are already in place. Development in others areas should be encouraged only when there are designs in place that deliver long term protection of the environment.

- The Township has financially supported Georgian Bay Forever along with several cottage associations in their efforts to control and eventually eradicate invasive Phragmites (Australis). What additional steps do you believe that the Township should be taking to assist with these efforts?

I feel that the Township support should be positioned to complement the efforts of individuals and cottage associations to eradicate Phragmites. I have heard that there are other approaches in other countries that are less focused on the manual efforts and use other “safe” environmental approaches to eradicate Phrag. The Township should be



aggressive in pursuing and encouraging these other strategies so that the volunteers do not get burned out.

- Are you satisfied with the costs and outcomes of the programs undertaken by Georgian Bay Township to help improve/maintain water quality in the Township, including water quality testing and the inspection/maintenance of residential septic systems? If not, what action or changes would you recommend?

NO! The Township spends a tiny amount on only the “testing” of water quality. This is done generally by “pure scientists” with chemical and biological expertise and focused only on water characteristics in isolation of other factors. None of those involved in the studies today seem to have an “applied approach” or care about aquatic vegetation that has grown out of control over the past 15 to 20 years. This narrow focus of study does not provide any real insight into the big picture and there is no focus on remediating water quality. There are many reports that say that the water quality is OK, but reports from the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) have reported low levels of blue-green algae in the subsurface waters in North Bay and South Bay. I believe it is unacceptable that this has not been brought to everyone’s attention and that focused discussions have not been held to ensure that we do not have surface blooms of blue-green algae like 3-Mile Lake and Lake Rosseau experienced in the summer of 2018.

I have gained a significant amount of expertise in residential septic systems as a result of my participation on OOWA. I believe that we need to have a much better understanding of the systems that are installed in our Township and the current performance of these systems. The inspection of a septic system without opening it up and inspecting inside and in the headers is a mostly wasted effort. If we are going to claim that we have done an inspection we need to do much more than the surface walk-about that have been more of the norm.

### **Planning**

- With regard to planning regulations and enforcement within Georgian Bay Township, how will you manage a balanced approach to protecting the interests of property owners and protecting the Georgian Bay ecosystem?



Zoning Bylaws are intended to provide the actionable and specific details to implement the intent of the Official Plan. It is these Zoning Bylaws that can be and should be enforced in our Township. However, Zoning Bylaws are also written for the “normal” situation. Unfortunately, there are very few “normal” properties in our Township. This means that where a bylaw does not permit something, the Planning Department needs to weigh in to bring their expertise, knowing the Official Plan, Environmental sensitivity and determining if there can be some flexibility where a Bylaw is written to not allow that flexibility. This approach, when done properly will adhere to the intent of the Township’s Official Plan, protect the interests of property owners and protect the Georgian Bay ecosystem.

- Community plans reflect the specific characteristics of each community. How will you protect their integrity and ensure the continued adherence to existing and future community plans?

I was part of the team who built the first Community Plan (for Honey Harbour) in the Township. I have a great respect for a community’s desire and ability to protect the integrity of their community. This does provide a real challenge to our Township Planning staff as they have many different constraints to consider depending on the community where a development application exists. I have seen some good success in involving members of a community in reviewing applications to assist the Planners in ensuring that the application conforms to the community plan. This should continue.

Community Plans should have structured processes in place that enable the community who created the plan to have the opportunity to review and approve any proposed changes.

### **Community Engagement**

- There are many stakeholder groups that are active or reside in Georgian Bay Township, including First Nations communities, community (cottage) associations, Georgian Bay focused organizations, and provincial and federal government agencies. In what ways are you satisfied that Georgian Bay Township is doing enough to work together cooperatively and productively with these stakeholders and in what ways do you believe that improvements are needed? If so, what improvements would you recommend?



I have had the benefit of participating in the GBA sponsored Delawana Conferences in the past. These brought many of the stakeholder groups together on an annual basis to seek ways of working more cooperatively and understanding each other's interests and priorities. The Township held one meeting like this several years ago and it was received very well by all participants. We should be much more proactive in holding joint forums and pulling together groups like this so that we can leverage the expertise of the many groups who attend.

- How do you envision communicating with constituents, many of whom live out of the municipality for parts of the year, to get their opinions, hear their concerns and inform them of important township initiatives?

I am delighted with the ability to do on-line voting in the 2018 election. It is unfortunate that we have to resort to snail-mail to get the voting PINs out to residents. If banks and most businesses can use exclusively on-line methods to interact with their customers, the Township must be able to do the same.

We need to aggressively explore ways to get electronic addresses of our residents so that we can communicate much more effectively with them. This would not only help at election time in getting their PINs out to them, but would also enable us to more effectively inform them of important township initiatives.

## **Other**

- If you have thoughts on topics not covered in the above questions or would like to just add a closing comment please feel free to do so here.

I am running in Ward4, Honey Harbour. Like so many small towns and villages in Ontario, there is a real challenge in maintaining the economic viability of the Hamlet of Honey Harbour. I believe that this needs to be a renewed focus of discussion within the Township. Most residents at water access properties in Ward 4 and many in Ward 2 are serviced by marina's in Honey Harbour. Although this does provide recurring business, the retail businesses in the Hamlet are failing. This is partially because of the failure of the Delawana but as mentioned it is also a trend in small communities in Ontario. I have heard that the Towne Centre will be closed this winter and that would be a first.



We need to put the topic of rejuvenating the Hamlet as a top priority for the Township.