



OURHRM
ALLIANCE

Planning for Liveable Communities

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**Our HRM features 35 candidate survey responses focusing on how HRM should grow:
Like the public, council candidates in favour of Greenbelting**

The Our HRM Alliance survey provides voters with one of the most comprehensive looks into the position of candidates running in the HRM election. The survey covers issues such as Greenbelting, transit, the extension of water and sewer lines and the development of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Park.

“We believe this is one of the best resources available to voters, particularly first time voters, on issues which are of critical importance to the health of HRM”, says Jen Powley, Our HRM Coordinator.

Though online voting started October 6th, many residents of HRM have yet to register their choice for Mayor or Councillor. The Our HRM Alliance’s survey, found at www.ourhrmalliance.ca/candidate-questionnaires, has both a synopsis in table form as well as the candidates’ complete responses. This can help the undecided voter actually decide. At the bottom of the tabulated responses is also a percentage figure of the number of candidates who responded in a certain way.

Residents have indicated that the issues asked about are of importance to them, so it is these issues which candidate selection could be based on. When the Our HRM Alliance surveyed candidates about whether they supported Greenbelting HRM, 82 per cent of respondents said yes. In July, when the Chronicle Herald asked the same question of residents, 85 per cent said they were in favour of a Greenbelt.

Although voter turnout for Municipal elections in HRM has traditionally been low (last election, only 37 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot), with realization about what’s under Municipal control, this could change. “If people realized that their district Councillors play a large role in deciding what their Municipality becomes, they would vote,” says Powley. “By providing them with more information the Alliance hopes to encourage more people to turn out and vote.”

When surveyed, 63% of candidates said they were in favour of not extending sewer and water at all. 23% qualified their support, only 3% thought that sewer and water lines should be extended for new development. This survey result differs from the recent Council decision to extend sewer and water to Sandy Lake.

The Our HRM Alliance’s survey had a response rate of 52%, with 35 of the 67 declared candidates taking the time to provide detailed responses to the 40 member groups’ questions on where to develop. The Alliance is encouraging growth and prosperity in the region but it wants that growth channelled into “the right” areas that will limit costs to the Municipality and safeguard its environmental sanctity.

For more information, please contact Jen Powley at 429-0924, or 802-1270.