



**Jordan Bateman**

**Candidate for Langley Township Council**

## **1. Water Management Plan**

The Water Management Plan is an important step in protecting our aquifers, but the Province needs to step further forward. It seems to me that the big culprits are factory farming operations that suck the life out of our aquifers. They need to be better regulated, which we can only do by pressuring the provincial government to give municipalities more influence over industries that masquerade as farms. This has been very difficult, as the Province continues to protect these industries under its Right-to-Farm legislation. The Plan should also push landowners to cap wells that are no longer being used. The municipality, as was said at the recent SRES forum, has only a limited draw on the Hopington—one that will never exceed its current level, if the Water Management Plan is approved.

As for the moratorium, I am genuinely torn. On the one hand, the moratorium has been in place for more than a decade, and water levels have still gone down. It does not get to the root of the problem—the large agricultural users and the uncapped wells in the area, where contamination can most easily occur. On the other hand, I am reluctant to put any more pressure on the aquifer until these issues are in hand. At this point, I am undecided.

## **2. Fort Langley Floodplain**

The most important thing to do is keep the parties talking. As long as we are all at the table together, we can move toward a plan. Each side needs to have realistic expectations about what can be done—there are financial, property, and even legislative limits that must be acknowledged. While I would carefully examine any land deal that came along, I do not believe the Township needs to own property to ensure that it is best used. We need to work with the agriculture community, not against them. The municipality simply does not have the resources to buy all of our floodplains and escarpment and other environmentally sensitive sites.

That being said, I generally support the idea of trails, but we need to recognize a balance between recreation, heritage value, and ongoing agricultural uses.

### **3. Authentic Communication**

As a former newspaper reporter, I believe strongly in open, continuous communication between government and citizens. To that end, I have posted more than 2,000 articles, opinions and links at LangleyPolitics.com throughout my three years on Township Council. I have also pioneered the political use of Internet tools like Facebook, Twitter, and Slideshare here in Langley. The Township needs to take advantage of innovative technology that allows online consultation—letting residents read and see plans on the Internet and respond at convenient times for them. I would like to see us augment our public open houses with online events.

I have been an approachable, accountable Councillor, giving voters hundreds of updates through my website, and reading thousands of their comments, e-mails and letters. I have built strong working relationships with residents, business owners, elected colleagues, Township staff, and other governments. This model can be done by a municipality as a whole.

Staying in touch with the people I serve takes a lot of time and effort, but it is well worth it.