

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on putting your name forward as a Candidate for Municipal Office.

AWARE Essa is a satellite of AWARE Simcoe a citizens' group with members in all Simcoe County municipalities as well as in Barrie and Orillia. We work to protect water, the environment, and health through transparency and accountability in government.

As part of that process, we try to monitor the activity of local councils and agencies, provide input and report on issues of concern to us on our website [www.aware-simcoe.ca](http://www.aware-simcoe.ca). (AWARE's Vision for Simcoe County can be viewed on the website.)

We are committed to encouraging and supporting public engagement in the political process. To that end, in 2010 and 2014, we distributed questionnaires to all Candidates and found that the responses we received were helpful to our members and supporters in making choices at election time.

This year, we have prepared an updated questionnaire which we respectfully ask you to complete and return by email to the sender, as soon as is convenient but no later than Thursday October 4. Your answers will be posted on the AWARE Essa Face Book Page and the AWARE Simcoe website – as written by you, without any editing or commentary - as soon as possible upon receipt.

We hope that you will find this a useful way to bring your views to the public's attention.

Thank you for your participation in the election.

Sincerely,

Janet Lord –Genyk  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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[jlordgenyk@rogers.com](mailto:jlordgenyk@rogers.com)  
AWARE Essa



[www.aware-simcoe.ca](http://www.aware-simcoe.ca)

## 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Michael Smith.....

Essa.....

September 25, 2018.....

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than October 4, 2018. **N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.** The answers will be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

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1. Water is a finite resource. Do you feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in your municipality? If so, how will you achieve this?

ANSWER

Water is our most important resource. In my opinion protecting water should be treated as such. Wetlands must be protected and our municipality is blessed to have the Minesing Wetland within it's boundaries. Development descisions should be directed away from these sensitive and neccessary areas.

2. Development charges never fully cover the cost of new development. Will you make sure that all costs that *should be* paid by development charges under existing legislation *are* covered? When considering an application, on what basis will you decide whether a development is a net benefit for the community?

ANSWER

In my opinion planning is the best way to ensure that the costs of development are covered. A municipality that plans ahead for what they will need in the future is best suited to have developers pay for the needed upgrades and improvements accross the township.

3. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County? In either case, please explain why.

ANSWER

I believe Greenbelt expansion is necessary to ensure water quality now and for the future. The government has announced plans to expand the Greenbelt and I would like to have as much input as possible to ensure our unique municipal concerns are met.

4. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater – zoned Agricultural – as the site for a (needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre. Springwater Township objected, pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial. What is your view?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, waste is a huge part of our world. Diversion and recycling efforts are key. I had no direct input into the decision of where to place the waste handling facility but I do know that the county looked at many sites. Cost is likely one of the biggest barriers to placing a facility such as this one in an industrial area. But I feel that is where they are better suited than taking up valuable agricultural lands.

5. Since 1924, the Ontario Tree Seed Facility in Angus performed a vital task for the whole province of coordinating seed collection from 37 zones across the province to ensure seedlings are returned to grow in the zone to which they are uniquely suited. The Progressive Conservative government is reviewing the closing ordered by the Liberals. What is your opinion on this matter?

ANSWER

The tree seed plant is a unique asset not only to Angus and Essa Township but for the entire province of Ontario. The cost of maintaining this asset is a tiny portion of provincial spending and I would like to see every effort made to continue it's operation.

6. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

ANSWER

- Continuing to improve our parks and trails - promoting a healthy walkable community.
- Representing the residents of Essa Township at Simcoe County Council
- Providing the residents of Essa Township with an accessible, hardworking and dependable deputy Mayor.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire