



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality_

Date:

Sarah Valiquette-Thompson.

Severn, Ward 5

Thurs. Oct. 4 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.

=====

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

Yes, absolutely! I sincerely feel that local politicians need better educating on this subject matter when elected into office, I would advocate for our local Council to participate in a learning workshop by an organization such as yours, to bring local politicians up to date on current issues, on how we can work together, improve our current systems, local organizations that we can partner with, so we can all better understand the current issues before us collectively. The pits and quarries are a significant topic of conversation in our region during this election, this is also something that deeply concerns me and it also

worries me that every candidate might not be aware of the significant impacts of such activities. I sincerely feel quarries can degrade the natural environment and we need to partner with our neighbouring townships and work together to ensure we take a stance on protecting our lands and areas from intrusive activities. In addition to elected officials I feel staff should also partake in the learning workshop so we can all better understand the impacts of activities happening or could potentially happen in our area. Knowledge and understanding is certainly lacking.

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?

Yes, and very good question. I understand that Severn has a 2014 Development Charge Study that was completed, on my list of priorities, if successful, I was hoping to have the new Council review this document in greater detail, and also solicit input from additional outside organizations as we did host public input sessions prior to the confirmation of this study and those comments I am interested in reviewing. In addition, it is essential to determine what the needs are for your community, what services are involved, what needs will be met, what grants are available for additional funding sources, all these factors must be strictly considered when deciding whether the development is a net benefit for our community.

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

Yes. I feel that expanding the greenbelt into Simcoe Country would give us a baseline protection against inappropriate development. I am a huge advocate for protecting our farmlands, #farmersfeedfamilies and do not want to see inefficient sprawl enter our Township. We have many rural areas and farmlands in our County that I will advocate strongly to protect with the expansion of the Greenbelt initiative. I have two young children, I can't express enough how much I want to ensure that we not only protect our current generation but are constantly considering and protecting our future generations when making key decisions within our local government.

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?

Honestly, my view that in today's times every Township or Municipality should have a Committee of Council dedicated to the education, awareness and advocacy of our Environment and act as an advisory body to Council. I was surprised to learn that Severn Township does not have this body comprised of like minded citizens, staff, a member of Council, and perhaps Lakehead University and/or Georgian College Environmental studies student. These items coming forward should be vetted through an appropriate committee to report directly to Council with their recommendations. Our Environmental Advisory Committee I found very useful and educational on Council with the City of Orillia and it allowed an advisory body to stay current on different discussions taking place around the province. Our Council also learned a lot from this body and appreciated seeking their input on related matters. (Although City of Orillia's Landfill is on the shores of Lake Simcoe which is an entirely other discussion, and probably made in the absence of such an advisory body.)

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?

Good. PC's should seek appropriate input from growers, forestry companies, public input, associated organizations, I hear the Tree Seed Facility is one of a kind in our Province, this decision was very short-sighted. I am vehemently opposed to the private sector taking on this type of work, there are huge social and ecological benefits to tree seed expertise and fortunate the PC's have recognized the importance.

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

1) Improved Communications with Constituents, Neighbours and Representatives: Better public turn out for Township initiatives/meetings, quarterly meetings with constituents, regular meetings with our Township neighbours to work together, online communications, high speed internet across our Ward, social media presence, overall,

more engagement, staying better connected to be more AWARE of what is taking place in our region.

- 2) Creation of Farmers Market, enhanced Community Food Gardens, improved Community Engagement: Through increased community events, food awareness and sustainability events, supporting local, highlighting the goods from our region. Bringing the community closer and getting them more involved, improved Community Centre.
- 3) Neighbourhood Roads/Neighbourhood Safety/Traffic Calming Measures: A real issue across our Ward, many roads that have been neglected, increased speeding taking place in specific neighbourhoods, safety for our children crossing Hwy 169 to get to the Park, Intersection of 169 + Muskoka.

=====

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire

Thank you! Amazing Questions :D