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# **2022** Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date:</u>
John Bard	Oro-Medonte: Ward 2	Sept 14, 2022

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than September 15, 2022. The answers will then be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website. **N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.** 

1. AWARE Simcoe considers the preservation of farmland, the protection of water resources and natural heritage, and providing transparency and accountability in government decision making to be the primary issues of this election.

Our goal is to elect representatives who support those objectives. Do you agree with this?

ANSWER

Yes

2. 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. We must consult with groups that are committed to preserving these areas. These groups have invested time and money into researching the impacts of intrusive activities on these precious resources.

3. Ancient deposits under the Simcoe Uplands in Simcoe County's Tiny, Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Tay townships contain pristine groundwater.

This water is the purest water known to science, and is the gold standard for water worldwide, a national and global treasure.

Ongoing gravel pit extractions on French's Hill, the water recharge area, now threaten to destroy this precious water. Will you work to protect this important local resource?

### ANSWER

This is not in my municipality. I am committed to preserving groundwater.

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

### ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. This would add another layer of protection for the forests, lakes and streams, and farmlands of Oro-Medonte. I think development should focus on intensification of existing urban centres to maximize existing infrastructure and encourage public transit.

5. What are your plans to combat climate change in your municipality?

## ANSWER

I think that we need to maintain the forests that we have and encourage rewilding. I think that we should be working with agencies to help connect the public that is interested in planting trees to offset carbon. I also think that there needs to be more efforts to reduce energy consumption. I would like to see the different departments take ownership of this and look for ways in which energy can be conserved. Although a small step it will put this on the minds of more people and hopefully we will start to see more people concerned about minimizing their carbon footprints.

6. Every municipality in Ontario is faced with row-on-row sprawl-style development, and surrounding farmland is being destructively gobbled up with little regard for future agricultural needs. Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland every day, it needs to be protected before it's too late. We need to ensure we have the land to grow food for today

and future generations. Once it's paved over, it's gone forever! How will you protect agricultural lands within your municipality?

### ANSWER

Farmland needs to be protected. I have been approached on a few occasions by developers and real estate agents about my interest in selling our farm. The decision not to sell is a good example of how I am committed to protecting farmland.

7. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater Twp – zoned Agricultural, as the site for a (much needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). Many residents in Simcoe County objected to this location, pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial where the facility should be built. What is your view?

### ANSWER

Zoning should be followed. The waste handling facility should not have been built on farmland based on the information that you have included.

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

#### ANSWER

- 1. To seek input from residents and community groups, and to listen
- 2. To protect water, forests, and farmland
- 3. To improve the traffic safety measures for residents crossing highway 12 in Warminster and those living on Line 15 North.

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.