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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Peter Lavoie

Oro-Medonte Twp

Sept 23, 2022

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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.

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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 I do. Further to this I feel that there needs to be a greater economic connection between the residential and agricultural communities to their mutual benefit. With support from other Councillors, I would like to see more market and artisanal style local food opportunities that would promote commerce between these vibrant parts of our township.

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 – Where the township has jurisdiction over the activity, I would like to see further protections for the Oro Moraine, definition of its boundaries and determination of the sustainability of the moraine with the development on it. Further there should be ongoing protections for the environmentally sensitive zones. There appear to be circumstances where experts who try to review information regarding the natural heritage

and other relevant zoning changes must resort to freedom of information requests. This is unacceptable.

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 – It must be a priority to protect our water resources, ground and surface water, which includes Bass Lake and Lake Simcoe.

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

ANSWER – What I believe in is that this generation should leave behind a liveable and sustainable Township for the next generations. Proper protections and incentives should remain in place and where necessary be enhanced to ensure that local food production, healthy environment zones, biodiversity and water resources remain available to support our community in the present and for the future.

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

ANSWER – There are two tiers to this question. The first is what to do regarding the more serious weather events that we are experiencing? The second being, what jurisdictional aspects of the municipality have impacts on global climate change?

Firstly, upon asking, the Township does not appear to have a Climate Change Impact Assessment document. This places the Township in some jeopardy as it does not have the management instruments in place to determine how the assets of the residents and municipality are at risk and what priority to place the risks in to mitigate the damages. The first step is to conduct a Climate Change Impact Assessment so we can best protect our homes and municipal properties.

Secondly, as transportation and housing comprise the largest contributors to global warming the Township needs to understand how it will address these two aspects. From a governance perspective the current Township administration does not seem to have the appropriate organizational structure to address this issue nor the expertise to address it.

Providing the competence and capacity to administer this function would be the primary objective.

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 – This, it seems to me, is a partnership of the willing. It is also a matter of right for those who own the land. If the owner of the land is unwilling or unable to continue to farm it, then the question becomes what should happen to it. Likely it will be sold to the highest bidder who may rent it out for further farming or who may seek to have it rezoned for a different use and development. A use that might provide a better economic benefit than agriculture and take strain off of the tax base. My belief is that the two larger questions are: Who will farm the land that remains agriculturally zoned, and how will this occur in a manner that is economically beneficial to the agricultural community and the community at large?

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 – Properties that are not zoned for the use being proposed should be exposed to the appropriate review. If seems from the question that a proper review took place and the ERRC was not placed in an inappropriate location, so the system worked.

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

ANSWER

1. Make the Township Administration more service oriented.
2. Achieve a proper level of decorum and professionalism at Council.
3. Involve the voices of the community in the running of the Township.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.