



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

## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

.....Alan Masters...

Town of New Tecumseth

.....Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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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

In principal Yes, however: much provincial government planned growth for our township with Alliston as a growth node has already been in existence since amalgamation and is beyond the prevue of this Municipal election. Our responsibility as a council is to ensure the planned growth includes all the recognized environmental safeties, development adheres to our key principals while retaining our natural heritage. This development must also adhere closely to our provincial growth policies under the "Ontario Places to Grow" mandate!

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

In principle Yes. I agree with the following Ontario government policy on wetlands:

"A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario represents an important step forward in the conservation of Ontario's wetlands.

Focused around four key directions and associated goals, the strategy offers a comprehensive suite of actions that the Ontario government is taking to conserve and restore wetlands across Ontario, and ensures that the ecosystem services they provide continue to benefit the people of Ontario for now, and for generations to come". See <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wetland-conservation-strategy#section-3>

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

I would work to protect any precious water resource.

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

ANSWER

Alliston has been designated a "Primary Settlement" area by the government for some years since amalgamation in 1990, this was kicked off by the building of the Honda plant. I believe careful review and consideration of any development plan is a must and should include a greening policy.

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

ANSWER

I belong to a small private environmental group of industry specialists who continues to lobby both the Ontario and Fed governments for a more common sense and practical approach to the environment and clean energy. I also communicate with a New Tecumseth Environmental group (Greys for Green) on ideas to help the environment locally.

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 is the million dollar question! Originally in the 1800's farmers invited industry in to their regions to help grow and make their settlements prosper, now that shoe is on the other foot! We can't stick to the "same old same old" mentality! We live in unprecedented times requiring much out of the box thinking and forethought before we proceed with any standard building development plan. We should take a page out of other countries who are taking new and innovative approaches to this urban sprawl and land use issue, such as building developments for the majority that include greening and use alternative energy, which also include a public mass transit system. Development is inevitable but how we manage it is extremely important, by taking extra steps in how we manage this development can reduce our footprint and save as much arable land as possible.

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

In principle without knowing all the facts in this case, (is this a non fixed site?) Under "Ontario Places to Grow" agricultural land is for farm use only.

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

ANSWER

1. The proper and well planned development of our town, including: water supply and drainage.

2. Transportation: (Public Transit, Traffic safety and roads).

3. Wise management in the expenditure of our taxes.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.