



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Barry Ward.....

Barrie

.....Sept. 2, 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: Yes, although in Barrie affordable housing and homelessness would be equally important issues.

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. In Barrie, we have been increasing our efforts to protect our water through upgrades to both our wastewater and stormwater systems. I am not aware of any development being allowed on a wetland over the past 20 years, with the exception of a road. Recharge areas are protected. Aggregate extraction is not an issue in Barrie; we have no gravel pits.

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: An important issue but not one that involves Barrie City Council since it is outside our boundaries.

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, although I will point out it will not directly affect the City of Barrie.

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

ANSWER: We have what I believe is a fairly ambitious plan to combat climate change in Barrie, adopted by the current city council, covering both efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and outlining how the municipality will make its facilities and services more environmentally friendly.

<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Documents/Barrie-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy.pdf>

<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Environment/Conservation/Documents/Implementation%20Plan%20-%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy%202018.pdf>

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: One of the best ways to preserve Simcoe County's farmland is to discourage "rural sprawl" and encourage more intense development in Barrie. There is no doubt that the former farmland within Barrie's borders will be developed for housing and industry but I consider a necessary tradeoff to accommodate our growing population while preserving farmland elsewhere. Shortly before the pandemic, my wife and I took a

bicycling tour of The Netherlands, one of the world's major food exporters. I was impressed how there was a very clear boundary between urban and rural areas. You didn't see the type of sprawling rural subdivisions that you see, increasingly, in our area.

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: Barrie has its own waste handling facilities so it's not something the city has been involved in.

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

ANSWER

1. Protecting what makes Barrie great, including our waterfront, our parks and our natural heritage areas

2. Preserving the services Barrie residents need, such as transit, emergency services and recreation.

3. Enhancing those areas where we could do better, such as affordable housing.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.