



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Ben Gorski

Midland

September 28

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?

Yes, I do Agree.

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?

I feel that there is a need to protect our water, wetlands and recharge areas from development. We can achieve this by controlling zoning, designating these areas as park lands or public spaces.

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?

Absolutely ! It's the best water in the world! My wife and I discovered this spring in Elmvale 12 years ago, since then that's all we drink.

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

I do support expansion of green belt into Simcoe County, unfortunately growth has benefits as well. We need to find that perfect balance.

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

Awareness, improve efficiencies in homes and business, promote upgrading out of date appliances and equipment. Reduce waste and increase recycling, promote the use of transit to reduce emissions, offer free bus fares for seniors. Have more charging stations available for electric cars.

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?

Control Zoning to reduce row on row sprawl style developments. Support local farmers, thru events like; farm crawl, advertising, make space available "Free" for weekly farmers markets. We buy our eggs and some vegetables directly from local farms, we all need to do more. Farmers are passionate and Successful farmers will not sell out to big developers.

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?

Keep the forest zoned Agricultural, work with the county to find a more suitable location.

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

ANSWER

- 1. Supporting the Local Economy.
- 2. Enhancing Tourism.
- 3. Fostering Responsible Growth.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.