



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Bob Jeffery

Midland

September 30, 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! I consider the preservation of farmland, the protection of water resources, natural heritage and providing transparency and accountability in government decision making. I promise that I will, around my council table, keep these notions to the forefront of any relevant discussions.

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, Midland is an urban municipality and some of which is very limited. In the past with the aid of the SSEA, Midland has been able to protect that which you note through the effective use of planning and by-laws. The aggregate extraction is an established company that is controlled by various legislation, both provincial and municipal. New operations within the boundaries of Midland would, I think, be surely rejected by both the general population and council. Once again the simplest and most efficient method of control at the municipal level (county is included in that level, just a higher tier) is by by-law.

Midland is situated within Simcoe County, I see it as the duty of Midland through our county reps, to keep any discussions relating to the areas named in the question at the forefront and ensure that our neighbours are not negatively impacted.

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

As per question 2: Midland is situated within Simcoe County. I see it as the duty of Midland, through our county reps, to keep any discussions relating to the areas named in the question at the forefront and ensure that our neighbours are not negatively impacted.

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

ANSWER

Green belts were envisioned and developed, by the province's planners, to be used as a barrier and respite area, void of massive development. The implementation and placement was not without much negative acknowledgement and push back ! They do, however, allow for natural growth and wildlife refuges. I would welcome such an initiative (s) within the county, regardless of location(s), but must acknowledge that it would not be without controversy when land owners see their potential sales to developers evaporate due to the enforced rezoning.

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

ANSWER

The municipality has over the years done much to play its part in the combat of climate change. However, as new thoughts and directions come to bear, more and more innovations are available to incorporate into the mix. Promoting green and environmentally friendly alternatives for Municipalities to consider are the daily offerings of many companies. Some of these innovations are achievable in house by a rework or enabled by an installation through an external company. Either way such changes can only happen through the will of council and they can only do that by being made aware of the innovative choices before them. I will ensure, through the seeking pertinent info in this regard, that the council will be aware of all the available information gathered, so that understanding is achieved and implementation is successful.

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

Using planning and the proper by-laws should ensure that present zoning applications are upheld. However, it behoves all local councils, both urban and rural, with the support of the county, to make it known to the minister that use of the MZO is not acceptable with regards to the loss of farmlands!

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

NIMBY, is the first opinion that comes to mind! However, I would be remiss to dismiss the views and opinions of others in the know. Immersing oneself in the project will allow our county reps to gain advice from another source, as to the pros and cons of the operation. Their determination and understanding of the situation will culminate, hopefully, in a holistic view of the operation.

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

ANSWER

1. Ensure Midland Bay Landing is developed for the benefit of all Midlanders.
2. Embracing Economic Development for growth and prosperity. A destination venue will benefit ALL Midland residents and businesses, alike.
3. Working with our county representatives to ensure resources are awarded to develop housing for all.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.