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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Bonita Desroches

Penetanguishene

September 28, 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 We are nothing without water, our health and the environment. So, yes.

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, there is a need to protect the environment. It is important that tools such as Official Plans (OP) be followed to control the development and use of land. The OP provides overarching tools to direct future growth, development and change within the Town and creates a more sustainable community for residents.

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 neighbours and North Simcoe Residents, it is our responsibility to protect local resources. There is power in numbers.

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

ANSWER The Greenbelt was created to restrict urban sprawl and prevent further loss of natural heritage and farmland. These pressures are particularly true in the County of Simcoe. The expansion of the Greenbelt would stabilize these forces and support the Growth Plan to develop lively communities where residents can live, work and play. I also feel that the expansion of the Greenbelt is a natural solution to climate change. Yes, I support the expansion of the Greenbelt.

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

ANSWER The Town of Penetanguishene adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in 2019. The Town needs to continue implementing the plan or set of activities. To ensure progress, it needs to continuously measure and report results.

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 Protecting agricultural lands begins by consulting with the farming community. We must also support our farmers and their lands with financial incentives and reduced costs; community and regional food planning; land use planning and; property assessment and taxation.

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 This is a tough question and one that I feel unable to answer. After a great deal of consultation with the community, this decision/selection of this property was made in 2016. My feeling is that there is no good location for a waste handling facility. However, this infrastructure will support the County's diversion initiatives and transfer of wastes for export to processing and disposal locations.

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

ANSWER

1. Address critical infrastructure deficits
2. Build Community through consultation and engagement
3. Revitalize the Town

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.