



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Brian Cummings

Penetanguishene

September 11

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?

I believe we should be looking at all ways to preserve all lands where possible. There are ways to work within a specified framework without restricting managed growth in our community.

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?

This municipality does everything possible to protect recharge areas and intrusive activities. I would expect to follow all guidelines specified by the ministry to protect our community.

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?

I am not aware that this recharge area was threatened. I would ensure that everything is done at the county level to ensure that this area is protected.

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

I am on the fence with this situation. It depends on the area and what is the proposed use for the land.

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

I would like to see municipal vehicles become electric. All facilities and buildings within the municipality should also be using solar power.

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?

I believe that agricultural land is disappearing because farmers no longer are available to farm these properties. The idea is to encourage farmers to create new and effective ways of farming that will encourage youth to become involved and take over.

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?

There was a process put in place when selecting this facility. I think that it was selected because it was the best possible site for access and waste handling.

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

ANSWER

1. Attainable housing

2. Better Transportation for seniors and people with mobility needs

3. Roads and sidewalks

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.