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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Carole McGinn

Midland

September 13th, 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 and I also support a residents right to oppose a change that affects their property. Transparency and accountability cannot ever be underestimated or undervalued. Without trust our social fabric and community will erode. Our farmlands, naturalized areas, water and source waters must be put before development.

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

Most certainly. Currently I am the Midland Council Rep on Severn Sound Environmental Association, I would ask to remain in this position and bring any concern or issue to SSEA. They are very accessible, diverse, capable and passionate. I would also ask for public input because I believe in the collective intelligence and vision of the 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?

ANSWER

Yes. Water is life.

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

ANSWER

I support expansion because a greenbelt has many benefits. I'll use a list format for ease of reading. Clearly identifies where to not expand into with development. recharges and filters ground waters. protects forests, watersheds, flora, fauna, (some of which are at risk species). Is a diverse ecosystem. Protects farms which we all need. supports ecotourism and outdoor activities. Access to greenbelts, Simcoe County forests, The Ganaraska Trail, Simcoe County Loop Trail (to name a few) is good for people's emotional, physical and mental health.

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

ANSWER

Keep talking about it. Engage with the community and identify if there is misunderstanding and/or barriers. I personally years ago was assisted by the non-profit organization -The Environment Network. Try to reach another milestone in the (PCP) Partners for Climate Protection Program. Personally I can be an example. I choose to walk when I can, take transit, my motorcycle if alone or one passenger (which I keep in good working order), then van ( I have 4 kids 13-9). Mentioning kids, as parents or grandparents we can teach and in action show our families how easy and fun it is to be eco-friendly and aware.

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

In our region we have neighbours with more agricultural and farming lands than we do but we have some. This issue in Midland will get the same support as it would at a county, provincial level from me. Protect these at risk lands by supporting natural heritage, green belt expansions, farmers themselves, your neighbours when they need, environmental groups, crop shares like farm 2 table to mention one, use social media to support local initiatives all while making mindful decisions that become enacted.

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

Sadly I remember this. That was hard to swallow. The freele path I wish had been fully preserved. So many groups fought a good honest battle. It's hard when a process is followed ie. the tribunal and we don't win.

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

ANSWER

In other media outlets I repeat the need to measure actions against The Canadian Index of Wellbeing and Healthy Living Index.

1. Housing and Living Standards. We must be careful how and where we build. We need affordable housing and different living styles.
2. Fiscal responsibility and Services. I truly believe that if councillors listen the residents have solutions and will share. It's also a councillor responsibility to do works, learn, ask questions and try to find new revenue streams, cost savings, while keeping services.
3. Management, preservation and growth of assets. A big issue in Midland is Midland Bay Landing, so specific to this, we need to listen to our residents, be wise, not rush and measure against projected or probable Canadian Index of Wellbeing and Healthy Living Index.

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Thank you for completing the *AWARE* Simcoe candidate questionnaire.