

Catherine MacDonald,
Councillor Candidate, Town of Midland,
September 15/22

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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

My goal is to respectfully serve with purpose, devotion and truthfulness.

Finding ways to protect our environment would be a main purpose....” think globally, act locally”. My twenty-one years as school board trustee has proven that I am transparent and accountable.

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. I would become more aware. Every little bit helps and would always be searching for positive outcomes.

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. I will work to protect our local area’s pristine groundwater and all local resources.

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

ANSWER

I believe that a healthy environment is critical to Simcoe County and would become mindful of ways to support it.

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

ANSWER

Combating climate change is always in the back of my mind and believe that every individual step helps. I would attempt to encourage Midland residents to become more conscious. I myself would become more proactive, study best practices of other municipalities and attempt to have them adopted in Midland.

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

I am aware and concerned with urban sprawl concerns.

There is a fine balance that must be adhered to.

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

As councillor of Midland, I would request that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, who are our Simcoe County representatives, provide us with a background report in order to determine the best solution to the (much needed) waste handling facility.

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

ANSWER

1. Serve with **purpose**; study each report and issues and make sound decisions that benefit Midland residents.

2. **Devote** the time required to make sound decisions. Prepare for council meetings and serve on committees, where appointed.

3. Always be **truthful**. The greatest advantage of speaking the truth is that you don't have to remember what you said.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE.

Thank you for making me aware of AWARE.