



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Christopher Baines

Collingwood

Sept 12, 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

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 – legislate by province and zone by municipality

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

4. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County?

In either case, please explain why.

ANSWER

Yes – as province and GTA grow exponentially we need a commensurate amount of green space for future generations.

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

ANSWER

Ban drive in restaurants or drive throughs to stop idling.

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

Not sure how to respond on this until I learn more. Collingwood has very little agricultural land left and that there is mostly leased. Not sure that the horse has already left our barn but others should look to us so as not to repeat.

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 a member of the Simcoe County Committee that for nearly three years studied 507 sites and then narrowed down to three and then one, I support the decision made. It was a pity that all of our meetings could not have been televised so more citizens and neighbours could have appreciated and understood the process.

Everyone must ask just where will our waste and compost go?

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

ANSWER

1. Water quality

2. Affordable housing

3. Bike lanes

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.