



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Constance Elliot

Barrie

September 15, 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.

=====

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. For Barrie, protecting EP land and Lake Simcoe are particularly important.

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 speak and vote against development that permits these intrusive activities in areas where natural resources would be in jeopardy.

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

If invited or asked to address this I would share my opinion on the need to protect this resource. However, it appears to be outside of the City of Barrie's jurisdiction, it would not be my role as a Councillor to address the matters of other municipalities. Barrie Council may not be informed on activities like extractions or developments on these resources that are outside the city. As a concerned citizen I would likely voice my opinion on any activities outside Barrie that would put resources in jeopardy.

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

ANSWER

I think protecting Environmentally valuable resources, land, and wildlife habitats is of the utmost importance. We are seeing more and more coyotes and wildlife in our cities, more invasive species, and vanishing native species (animals, bugs, and plants) we need to protect natural habitats and native species to prevent extinction of those that are vital to our eco systems.

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

ANSWER

I am in favor of active transportation modes - with thoughtfully planning.

I am also in favour of working towards a zero waste program by emulating Markham program that includes a road map to 80 percent waste diversion.

I would also like to work with the City of Toronto and upper levels of government to emulate European transit models, especially for commuters. I would love to see transit that is both environmentally friendly and truly affordable as is the case in many European cities.

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

Barrie, lacks agricultural land to begin with. We also have a housing crises that cannot be ignored. We also have many large lots that have huge front and back yards that people don't want to see developed.

Recently, when canvassing I have seen people turning their front into fruit and vegetable gardens. I think this is a fantastic idea. These gardens are not traditional but look great, and if the city could incentivize a food sharing program that could help address another crises we are seeing, food insecurity, I think there is a trade off. A way to make alot of people happy. Those who don't want to see too many granny flats may be happy to see more fruit and vegetable gardens that help feed those in need.

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

I do not know enough on this matter to answer this question.

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

ANSWER

1. Student Housing. I would like to lobby the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for separate legislation that pulls student housing (rental situations) from the Residential Tenancies Act. I would like to propose this legislation address rental fees (rent control or regulation of fees to make it more affordable). Additionally, to set students up for success I would like to see a process that enables landlords to quickly remove disruptive -problem tenants. People who are causing issues for other students and the neighborhood. Finally, I would propose this legislation addresses overcrowding. Overcrowding is not ideal for students who need to focus on their studies. My hope is also that Landlords who don't like the new legislation decide to rent or sell to families in need of single family dwellings
2. Speeding. Police services is the highest portion of our tax bill.any of the residents of Ward one that I have expressed concern over speeding and a lack of presence by the BPS. I would like to see more of a presence to deter speeding and other petty crimes we are seeing rise in Ward One. I would also like to see traffic calming measures on our main streets. Line painting and safe bike lanes to make the roadway more

narrow and reduce speeding. I have seen narrow road line painting quell speeding successfully in other municipalities, and I am a big fan.

3. Roads. The roads have been neglected and many are long past their lifespan. I understand the city has its reason for holding off on the roads, and that there is a plan to do the water and waste water mains at the same time. The city recently began replacing the park equipment at St. Vincent Park. The equipment was 5 years past it's life span. That is dangerous. It makes me wonder if the life span of our water mains has elapsed, our roads are certainly in rough shape.

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.