



[www.aware-simcoe.ca](http://www.aware-simcoe.ca)

## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Dan Janssen

Severn

September 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, I agree.

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, of course we have to protect these important resources. We also need to have aggregate extraction to support our building needs. What we cannot allow is for aggregate companies to operate in environmentally sensitive lands, and when residents raise concerns about changes to wells and groundwater, these concerns need to be addressed immediately

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 am committed to protecting the purest water in the world and am proud that it comes from our area.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the greenbelt into my municipality and within Simcoe County. We have environmentally significant lands covering the Alliston Aquifer and the Oro Moraine within our County. We should also be proud of the forested lands and the farmland. Expanding the greenbelt would help to protect these important areas and ensure that decisions regarding development are made responsibly.

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

ANSWER

I believe that addressing climate change has to be done in a responsible way that ensure future generations are able to enjoy the world in the same way we do today. We must make decisions that ensure the environment is protected. We should work to attract sustainable initiatives to our municipality and promote the creation of communities that have the infrastructure in place so that people can live without having to travel kms away just to work, buy groceries and find entertainment.

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 believe that every level of government should be working to protect one of our most important resources, farmland. As a councillor, I will carefully review any application for land use that may negatively impact agricultural lands. I believe in responsible and sustainable growth that should be managed with the least amount of impact on farmlands and environmentally significant lands.

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 am strongly opposed to using our pristine forests for industrial sites such as the ERRC. There are many industrial zoned areas in Simcoe County that would make it better suited to place this facility. The impact on wildlife in the area, including threatened species must be considered when these decisions are made. I have written about the site in the past:

[LETTER: Do we have the political will, courage to shift toward a sustainable future? - Barrie News \(barrietoday.com\)](#)

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

ANSWER

- 1. To be a voice for my community and effectively raise and resolve concerns at council.
- 2. To improve our parks and greenspaces within our township and to attract tourism into our community.
- 3. To ensure that we remain sustainable and grow our community in a way that will benefit future generations.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.