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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Dan La Rose

Penetanguishene

September 9, 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?

Yes. I believe that the preservation of farmland and water is very important. I look forward to your group’s input on any planning decisions that need to be made.

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?

Yes. We have placed specific zoning around our wellhead recharge zone to limit hazardous industries from locating there.

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?

Yes.

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

In the right situation, yes. I believe that part of the Greenbelt could be expanded into Simcoe County if it is required to maintain water source protection.

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

We have instituted a bus system that helps limit the cars on the road. We have also expanded bike lanes in our major road reconstruction. Going forward, I would like to look at the possibility of replenishing our town vehicles with cleaner emission vehicles.

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?

Through the zoning by-law, we can limit housing development so that agricultural land cannot be built upon.

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?

I agree that the waste handling facility is definitely needed. I would encourage the County to look at all appropriate sites regardless of ownership.

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

ANSWER

1. Infrastructure and affordable housing.

2. The rehabilitation of the Town Dock. I don't support the plan that was recently presented to Council. We must ensure that any changes made actually benefit our residents while not creating an undue tax burden. We must be fiscally responsible with a project of this magnitude.

3. Recouping the policing costs for the Central North Correctional Centre that the province unjustly reneged on, leaving Penetanguishene residents solely responsible to pay for them.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.