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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

DAVID SPARROCK

Tiny Township

Thursday, September 15

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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, absolutely I agree and support the preservation of farmland, protection of water, and natural heritage. I believe providing transparency and accountability are cornerstones of municipal council.

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, I believe we must protect our water and wetlands. I will work with Jill Dunlop, MPP and Adam Chambers, MP to work together to achieve these goals. I was involved in Site 41, which was a dump site that was being built on wetlands. Together, we stopped that project and we must work together to stop aggregate extraction operations in Tiny Township.

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?

My top campaign priority is stopping the aggregate extraction at Simcoe Uplands – CRH Canada Teedon Pit. This aggregate washing will contaminate the groundwater which is the purest water in Ontario. Teedon wants a proposed

extension of the Teedon Pit into French's Hill above the Alliston Aquifer. This expansion and current operation must be stopped.

This could be devastating to the environment and cause irreparable damage. This will be catastrophic to the delicate ecosystem and will destroy the water in Alliston Aquifer and surrounding area. I support a moratorium on gravel extraction on the existing site as this is an ecologically sensitive area and the pristine water will be contaminated. We stopped Site 41 twelve years ago and we must fight this with the same tenacity and vigilance to protect our water for future generations.

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

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County and I believe the Greenbelt is to be protected. The appealing lifestyle in Tiny Township is based on the preservation of our Greenbelt and wetlands.

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

I support the Climate Action Program, which is currently in place. Change is constant within our environment, which requires revisiting and updating the Climate Action Program.

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?

The County Development Plan provides the current status quo for farmland. This land is already protected under this plan. I will continually support this plan to protect the agricultural land. Farmers feed families, which is integral to supporting farmlands.

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 site should be built in an industrial area. This is beyond Tiny Township's borders and it's within my sphere of concern, but beyond my sphere of influence.

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

My top 3 Priorities:

1. Simcoe Uplands – CRH Canada Teedon Pit

This aggregate washing will contaminate the groundwater which is the purest water in Ontario. Teedon wants a proposed extension of the Teedon Pit into French’s Hill above the Alliston Aquifer. This could be devastating to the environment and cause irreparable damage.

I believe the Township should aggressively oppose the proposed extension of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation into French’s Hill. This will be catastrophic to the delicate ecosystem and will destroy the water in Alliston Aquifer and surrounding area. I support a moratorium on gravel extraction on the existing site as this is an ecologically sensitive area and the pristine water will be contaminated. We stopped Site 41 twelve years ago and we must fight this with the same tenacity and vigilance to protect our water for future generations.

2. Short Term Rentals (STRs):

Ghost Hotels pose major issues that need to be addressed more aggressively. The current council has stated the number of short term rentals is around 400, which is far lower than the actual number. In reality, there are approximately 1,200 STRs in Tiny, with many of these identified as ghost hotels. Many owners are never on site (also referred to as Ghost Hotels), which creates a huge problem among other residents. Ghost hotels are not permitted under the current zoning by-law.

I have had conversations with many residents who advise that serious complaints regarding STRs are not addressed by Council. In my opinion, the entire Short Term Rental Regulation framework needs to be overhauled. I would like to implement a strong STR Licensing Task Force or Committee to deal with this issue. Council would first need to identify and investigate problematic STR properties. A complaint registry could be set up to further mitigate this issue.

3. Fiscal Responsibility: Stop Wasting Taxpayer Dollars:

Town Council has a duty to represent all taxpayers of Tiny Township.

This Township has worked well in the past, and for decades, resolutions were accomplished. During these years, the public beach was respectfully enjoyed by all, with very few conflicts. In the last decade, however, there have been too many unresolved conflicts.

It would appear that many lawsuits in Tiny are caused by lack of research and poor legal opinions. To resolve lawsuits, we need to do the proper research to avoid conflicts that may end up in litigation. Conducting research and obtaining proper legal advice and opinions would alleviate unnecessary litigation, which results in irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. I believe that we must shift our focus and work together to resolve issues, avoiding litigation and unnecessarily wasting taxpayer dollars.

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