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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

David Clark

Oro-Medonte

Aug. 7th, 2022

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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?

*I agree with this - most importantly transparency and accountability. I am a firm believe that a strong democracy is dependent on important issues being made by people in an open setting - not behind closed doors.*

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?

*Of course, without water our existence on this planet is certainly doomed. We are very fortunate to live in a country with the most freshwater in the plant, but that comes with the responsibility of being an active steward of our most precious resource. In order to achieve this it will be ensuring that our local conservation authorities are actively engaged and consulted on any projects - while they don't have the 'bite' of other regulatory agencies - they provide a critical role in the preservation of our environment.*

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?

*I would love to see all the specific details on this topic, without them my opinion would be meaningless. I will say that when an environmental resource is being exploited with no other motivation than greed at the hands of a few individuals, I would likely be opposed to further degradation.*

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

*I think this is a really interesting question, on one hand, absolutely, we need to ensure that our green spaces are preserved for years to come. I do however, understand that we as a province and country are currently struggling to provide housing that allows Canadians to have full, fruitful and fulfilling lives. A careful and balanced approach to these competing priorities needs to enacted. I am not saying to pave over the existing greenbelt, or remove any chance for other expansion of the greenbelt, but we do need to consider the need for expanded affordable housing.*

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

*My current plans would be working with the active and engaged constituents to address their current frustrations, and bring to fruition their ideas that respect our need to quickly, and forcefully address climate change in our area. We need to work with all levels of government to enact policies to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, while simultaneously updating our infrastructure to ensure a safe living environment that will be adaptable to the effects we are ALREADY feeling from climate change. (I think of the Heat dome from last year along the west coast, and in the UK/Europe recently)*

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?

*I agree - protecting valuable, arable farmland is tremendously important. We are fortunate to have some of the best farmland in the world. As previously stated we need to balance the ability for our farms and green-spaces to thrive, as well as developing a plan to ensure we have housing for our fellow Canadians. I vehemently oppose for example the Bradford bypass of the 413 highway.*

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 admit I would need to brush-up on the specifics of the above topic to have a manful discussion. If I recall correctly, our organic waste from all County of Simcoe collection is currently shipped over 100kms to be processed by a third party. I believe there is a good faith argument that in order to prevent those additional green house gases (not even including those required to provide curb-side collection), a local site (even in imperfectly located) would be a great benefit to the environment overall, not to mention the potential boost to local well paying jobs. I am speculating here, but I would assume some reasoning for this use of agricultural land would be to the required setbacks of such a facility from residential neighbourhoods, and the potential for smells that would come from it.*

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

ANSWER

*1. Increased Transparency in Council decision making*

*2. Engaging the local electorate to be involved in the local community.*

*3. Ensuring all stakeholders are considered when council is making a decision.*

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.