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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

David Ghobrial

New Tecumseth

September 23, 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, we have been developing our prime farming lands with no regard for the environmental impact. As deputy Mayor, I will put forward policies that will encourage responsible developments that work with the natural beauty of our town instead of putting massive subdivisions just because it is more cost-effective for the developer.

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

See answer above

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, with counterparts in the stated above townships

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

ANSWER

Please see the answer to Question 1

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

ANSWER

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

By supporting farmers with policies that help them keep their agricultural land, not policies that deter the ongoing of generational owned and operated farms. Encouraging the continuing use of the agricultural land for farming rather than encouraging farmers to sell to developers the building of "row-on-row sprawl-style development".

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

This was allowed and development of the site has already begun in an adjacent township as a result of previous government mismanagement. This is a provincial issue that should have been addressed at the level of the MPP of the respective riding.

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

ANSWER

1. Healthcare and Education

2. Agricultural protection

3. Stopping the “pathological/ disproportionate” development vs amenities of our town.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.