



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

## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

...Deb Doherty.....

.....Collingwood.....

...09/28/22.....

[www.votedebdoherty.ca](http://www.votedebdoherty.ca)

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: Absolutely agree. With regard to the environmental concerns, these preservations will provide significant climate change mitigation measures. With regard to the latter, the Town of Collingwood spent \$8M on a Judicial Inquiry to ensure that transparency and accountability become primary touchstones to our governance model. I do not intend to see that painfully high investment wasted.

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: As above, yes, and how this is achieved is through the Official Plan. The Town of Collingwood has just received the first draft of its new OP, and these matters are addressed, albeit in language that needs strengthening and I will be looking for this in the next draft.

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: This is outside of the jurisdiction of the Town of Collingwood, but as a member of the Board of the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation and an individual who firmly believes that this aquifer needs protection, I will convey my opinions to our County representatives, under whose jurisdiction this does fall.

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

ANSWER: I would support efforts to do this, because green spaces provide drinking water filtration, and they contribute significantly to climate change mitigation through stormwater absorption and carbon absorption and retention. Further, they help to contribute to the quality of life of our communities.

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

ANSWER: Implementation of a Climate Change Action Plan, which is now in process. This has established a carbon emissions baseline and reductions targets against which we can measure our performance (although I have called out our emission reduction target as being too low). They will dictate how the municipality makes capital investments to reduce carbon emissions and establish mitigation strategies (eg., stormwater management), and it establishes guidelines for the community at large to follow to improve resident and business carbon footprints. Through the OP policies, greenspaces and natural heritage must be protected and/or enhanced (see #4). Finally in Collingwood we have recently established a Service Capacity Allocation Policy that allows the Town to evaluate new development applications on parameters including sustainability, affordability and efficiency, for example. Only the applications achieving a minimum score of 50% on these measures will be granted servicing, and the highest scorer will proceed when there are competing applications.

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 share your opinion here - I often wonder what our children are going to eat! That said, there are virtually no agricultural-zoned lands in Collingwood. Those that exist have recently received affirmative zoning. The Town's new Official Plan prioritizes densification throughout the community.

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: As a member of the Association of Municipalities Waste Management Task Force, I admit I have mixed views here. While I appreciate the concern, the output of this facility will be biological, as I understand it. Further the need to divert waste from landfills and to reduce methane emanating from biodegradable waste is urgent. Until our society is able to commit to a truly circular economy, we must choose the lesser impact on the environment.

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

ANSWER

1. Growth Management , Including Affordable Housing.
2. The Environment and Commitment to the COP 26 Resolution
3. Continued adherence to and implementation of the Collingwood Community Based Strategic Plan.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.