



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Dieter Mueller

Councillor, Ward 4 City of Barrie

August 30, 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

First in that list needs to be the health of our residents. Then the statement to which I can agree is complete.

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

There is a total need to protect water, wetland, recharge areas in all phases of urban planning. One method is to assure adequate setbacks from impervious cover.

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

Every stream and creek in Simcoe County is fed by springs or seeps from aged groundwater. Extraction processes and urbanization must not be allowed to disturb the reservoir of groundwater in our area.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. Destruction of farmland in our area – witness solar power arrays, and urban sprawl has already done a number. It's time to hit the pause button.

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

ANSWER

My community is threatened with changes in micro climate as developments continue unabated. Winters will become warmer as will the summers. Green space must definitely be built into every subdivision plan. Further, in order to lower the impermeable cover, housing density needs to be reduced. Finally, let's support the planting of trees on a scale that we've never seen before...both public and private.

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

Sadly, there is pretty well zero agricultural land left in Barrie. “They paved Paradise, put up a parking lot”.

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

I was not in favour of the County pushing this agenda through. Every tree matters!

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

ANSWER

Please note, this answer applies to the municipality known as the City of Barrie...

1. Barrie has up to 100 aging asbestos-asphalt paved streets. Ward 4 features 16 such streets. Highly toxic asbestos fibres are constantly being eroded from their surfaces. Asbestos-asphalt streets everywhere need to be declared a health hazard, be ripped up and replaced asap.

2. A program to reuse contaminated spent winter sand swept up from the streets of Barrie was started in 2017. This program was stopped in 2020 but a restart has lately been reconsidered. No amount of spent winter sand must ever be allowed to pollute Barrie again. The environment, the residents and the pristine waters of Lake Simcoe must be spared.

3. The increase of vagrants and beggars so prevalent and noticeable in our City needs to be addressed. An appropriate and humane solution must be arrived at. This is a complex issue not simply for one

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.