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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Doug Rawson

Penetanguishene

September 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?

Yes, I do. We need to do all we can with processes, planning & development and open discussion with our communities regarding approvals while protecting our natural heritage and resources. Water is an essential source of life and in order to have a growing and thriving community, we must ensure all efforts are taken to ensure nothing jeopardizes our water supply and sources.

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, this is essential. With proper planning and working with community groups and experts, like the Seven Sound Environmental Association we can enact the safeguards for our communities treasures.

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?

Yes. Ensuring we protect our water source for generations to come is of the utmost importance to the sustainability of our communities.

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

I appreciate and respect green space and protection of environmentally important lands. I believe that waterways, environmental ecosystems need to be protected and that expansion of such lands is a fine balance with the need to continually grow and develop. Through public consultation and the eye to appropriate planning we can work to find a responsible balance.

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

Responsible growth, protection of our environmental ecosystem and leading our community with its natural resources for our residents will ensure we remain a treasure for generations into the future.

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?

Responsible planning, being a strong voice and advocate to measured growth without jeopardizing our natural ecosystems.

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?

It is easy to reflect how a previous government (council) did not make the decision of choice. By advocating and representing our community with a strong emphasis on

sustained growth while protecting our natural heritage, waterways, and ecosystems and that they are paramount will ensure preservation of our lands and industrial uses.

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

ANSWER

1. Infrastructure improvements and maintenance of our aging infrastructure
2. More community engagement and active communication about all matters.
3. Budget accountability with a focus on a long term capital plan development.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.