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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality:

Date:

Gene Stein

Oro-Medonte Twp

September 27, 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 I agree. Moving forward we as a township are not going to be able to stop development, however we will be able to set the tone (conditions) as to how it takes place. As a councillor (and I would only be one part of it) we must be open and inclusive to input and discussions with ALL the constituents of the township who will be affected by it.

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

We need to establish a set list of qualifications that the interested developer would need to meet. In addition, any and all reports (environmental, traffic, infrastructure, effects on already established areas) must be current (minimum 2 years old). Open consultation of all surrounding parties that may/will be affected.

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 that being said this location is out of the direct jurisdiction of the township however there is nothing to preclude establishing a relationship with neighbouring townships as well as the county to strengthen our positions in protecting our shared resources.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion. Development will come but it will have to be done carefully and be limited to areas of least impact. We could easily over build if not careful and if that occurs, we would not have the ability to provide a basic necessity (clean water) leaving the overdevelopment high and dry.

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

ANSWER

This is a worldwide issue and until I see the current operation (the township) from the inside I cannot give a concrete 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

The growing lands need protection as once they are gone there is no return. It would be in the township's best interest to have a consultation committee with participants from the

farming community. This would give us direct access to the issues as well as the possibility of assisting those who wish to retire to connect with others wanting to enter the farming lifestyle. I believe this would be successful and limit the possibility of having to deal with urban growth in the wrong areas.

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

The truth is we are not going to win every time and that is the reality. We are stakeholders in this and as such there is nothing stopping the township for advocating that ALL necessary steps have/are being take to minimize the impact of this development on the site itself as well as the adjoining area.

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

ANSWER

- 1.Enforcement of existing zoning in regards to STR's within the township.
2. Establish with my fellow councillors a council that welcomes input from all constituents and involves them in any matters that may affect them.
3. Work with the constituents, external agencies i.e.: LSRCA, MNR, Neighbouring townships, Simcoe County and advisory panels (we have excellent resources with many talented people within the township) to move Oro-Medonte forward in a way that we can be proud of.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.