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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date:</u>
George Cabral – Deputy Mayor	Springwater	11/Sept/22

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. For example in 2019 I arranged with Dr. Bill Shotyk ( The Elmvale Foundation ) to invite members of Council to visit and learn about Bill's Water Observatory facility just north of Elmvale on County Road 27. My hopes were to enlighten other Council members on the extreme importance of safe guarding and protecting the purest water in the world and to garner support and co-operation from Springwater.

In respect of farmland, I am a unwavering supporter in the protection of agricultural lands. I'm not a fan of the MZO ( Minister's Zoning Order ) even though there are times when the use of such a powerful tool may be justified, and supported by a council, under the correct circumstances ie: hospitals & seniors care facilities based on urgent need. However, certainly not to facilitate converting zoning from A1 agricultural to industrial to build an industrial business park. This exact type of proposal – to rezone 100plus acres of prime A1 agricultural land to Industrial - was presented before council this time last year. Strangely enough there were some members of council who seemed to think this was a good idea. Being an election year, I would strongly suggest watching the meeting from 01 Sept 2022 from timeline 41:17 , but particularly at timelines 1.09.00 and 1.24.00. Here is the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWet6yM7Cdc&t=5182s>

Even though items brought before council are not permitted to be revisited within one year, this presentation managed to be tabled several additional times this past year. Thankfully, working with Ward 4 Councillor Anita Moore, and with the support of Councillors Jack Hanna and Perry Ritchie, a motion was tabled to provide a policy and procedure specific to any future MZOs that would include comprehensive public consultation, staff oversight, and a two thirds vote to pass in the future. I will state for the record however, that nothing is ever written in stone and that this recently implemented policy and procedure could be repealed by a newly formed council thereby re-opening the door to developers.

I've built my reputation on honesty and trust and believe transparency and accountability are paramount. Residents must have access to information surrounding ALL aspects regarding Township policy and Council decisions including the right to review, question and provide comment and be recognized.

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

Yes. In this respect I look to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Area and Simcoe County mapping. The unfortunate reality is that aquifer ground water is not necessarily captured as EP lands. This creates a situation of drastically reduced oversight and removes much of the ability to implement existing legislative controls. In respect of the Waverly uplands, and the aggregate pit just outside Waverly in Tiny Township, its my understanding that the aggregate producing activities have impacted surrounding wells, but surprisingly according to Simcoe County mapping these aggregate activities fall outside the areas designated as highly vulnerable aquifers. This resource must be safe guarded and continued pressure applied to all upper levels of government to make the necessary legislative changes to effectively protect this life giving resource.

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

Please see above

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

ANSWER

Yes. The Greenbelt serves a significant purpose and provides for open space, preserves our natural heritage, and protects significant natural land features. The legislative protection is critical to lands within the Greenbelt and expansion would promote an enlarged protected area.

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

ANSWER

I will support the introduction of zero emission vehicles and equipment on a replacement basis going forward. Encourage and promote EV recharge stations at township facilities for use by the public. Include and promote green initiative criteria where appropriate when tendering contracts, and provide preference to firms already engaged in green initiatives. Work with private entities to encourage EV recharge stations by facilitating a streamlined permit process to cut through red tape.

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

Farmers expend their time and resources to produce food for everyone so that we can carry on with other economic activities instead of growing and producing food ourselves. Without farms we would face extremely difficult times and all other economic activities would soon come to a screeching halt. Presently our Official Plan is being revised and the present inventory of agricultural lands identified for inclusion. In keeping with my previous answer to Q1, I support keeping agricultural land and will not support developers or big business looking to rezone agricultural farmland to other purposes. Township has sufficient employment lands and residential development lands identified in inventory within the Official Plan and there is no good reason to rezone agricultural land.

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

My view, and position, is simple. Given that there exists industrial lands suited to the ERRC's purpose and function just a hop skip and a jump down the road, their selection within a county forest within a Springwater Twp zoned agricultural zone makes absolutely no sense at all. The additional distance that trucks would travel to an already properly zoned industrial park is minimal at less than 4 kilometres away. It is also telling that the County of Simcoe applied for, and was denied, an MZO ( Minister's Zoning Order ) which would have allowed the ERRC to move forward expeditiously outside the normal Twp development process and without the accompanying Twp oversight. The County has appealed the matter to LPAT ( Local Planning Appeal Tribunal ) and continues to forge ahead on this path. I fault an unelected Simcoe County Council for allowing this aberration to move forward from the incept. It follows a similar poor choice path such as the wasteful and expensive waste site known as Site 41.

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

ANSWER

1. My priority and focus has always been, and will continue to be, advocating and moving resident concerns and issues forward first.
2. Protect our agricultural farmland and maintain control and oversight of the massive development taking place in the south end of the Springwater to ensure current residents' needs and concerns are addressed, and that growth is managed in a smart and sustainable manner.
3. Ensuring that the core municipal services and infrastructure that residents need and want are delivered effectively and efficiently in a judicious and financially responsible manner that respects the taxpayer's hard earned dollars.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.