



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Geraldine Taylor-Cook

Severn, Ward 2

Sept 15/22

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

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?

Protection of water, wetlands and recharge areas must have protection but some intrusive activities are a necessary evil. There has to be a balance established.

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?

I am very interested in preserving this pristine groundwater and will work with the Severn Twp Council in whatever way they determine to move forward.

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

I support expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. I feel that any greenbelt gifted for any other use should require the entity taking greenbelt for their use should be responsible for replacing at least twice as much and it should be forest or wetland, meaningful greenbelt space.

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

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?

Cities trying to resort to urban sprawl should be forced to consider infill and not just plan around big lots and wide boulevards. Smaller housing on infill lots will also assist those who do not want and can not afford large houses. Also single story buildings could add an additional floor for rental accommodation. Up not out.

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?

If there is a suitable property already zoned for that use then I would recommend it be used.

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

1)Infrastructure including water, sewage& roads

2)Traffic control, with a focus on speed

3)Work with the Severn Twp council and agencies on water resource management, agricultural, tourism and arts & culture, and with outside agencies for balanced sustainable growth

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