



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Gibb Wishart

Tiny

September 15, 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

I quite agree, fortunately, we are not designated as a growth area by either the Province or the County, but we can never slack off our position.

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

I have put considerable effort into protecting the wetlands of Georgian Bay - I am also a believer that the same effort needs to go into the inland wetlands such as Tiny Marsh -Wye Marsh and all the rivers and creeks. The Gravel extraction situation is a much larger issue and potentially more damaging. By ourselves Tiny is the David in the Goliath story - we need to rally many other communities that are having similar difficulties and together we might have a chance to affect those who need our vote and in turn they will get the attention of the various ministries that rule the roost. If you play the game by the rules you will lose!

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

As one member of the Council I have and will continue to fight that battle. I went alone to Queens Park and tried to explain where the Council of the day was at that time. I'm afraid we need a lot more effort than that. It will be very helpful I think when the science is published. The existing Council did request the Sargents group to not mine down to the water level or below and we were told that the level that they were going to was just the first aquifer - Oh boy; as far I am concerned that's the foot in the door.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion as long as it does not affect the farmers.

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

ANSWER

I support the Township slowly getting into electric vehicles where we can afford it. I am opposed to Industrial Wind turbines I am not opposed to small solar and off-grid ideas. I would be a supporter of SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) they can use the tailings of the larger nuclear plants from 85% to almost 0% waste.- no more burying waste.

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

We as I said before are not designated as a growth area and I would fight very hard to resist any annexation by the towns to maintain all the farmland we have. Fortunately, our Official Plan also protects farmland.

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 am not at all sure why they wanted to put it where the plan is - but if it were my decision staff would be showing me the best industrial sites as the preferred.

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

ANSWER

1. Environment in general - protecting farmland - fighting hard with others against expansion of the gravel extraction and water taking - protection of our wetlands rivers and creeks.
2. Dealing with short-term rentals as an inappropriate use in a residential area.
3. Maintain a tax increase of 0 to 2% blended

If as a Council we don't deal with the issues that the greater number of people think of as important they will not follow Council's lead on environmental issues - a little salesmanship.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.