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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Glen Canning

Midland

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.

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

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

Aggregate extraction is governed by provincial laws and legally outside of Town's jurisdiction. Beyond using the limited influence of an elected town official to push our MPPs there is no direct route for a town councillor to influence decisions regarding Aggregate. Frankly it is a hole in the planning act that should be addressed.

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

In my past tenure on council, I consistently supported policies that protected wellhead recharge areas and I will continue to do so. I will continue to advocate this way with what little influence I have with the county.

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

ANSWER

Honestly, I consider myself to be well read and well informed but I am not familiar enough with this issue to make an educated answer. Generally I have always supported the idea of a well constituted green belt zone.

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

ANSWER

I believe the town of Midland has a climate change policy under the guise of an energy plan. The Town's assets and physical plants are evaluated on an ongoing basis to seek opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and to achieve some degree of efficiency.

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

Our Town's settlement area and our Town's boundaries have very limited farmlands and the land we have was included in the Natural Heritage System four years ago during the last OP update.

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

Converting Agricultural lands to host an Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) is concerning. However, I am not well informed enough to make a comment on this issue.

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

ANSWER

1. Primarily I am concerned with containing service creep and the associated tax growth that accompanies this.
2. Affordable housing - we must find a way to balance the supply and demand for housing.
3. Sustainable growth. While from a purely financial point of view growth is good it must be balanced with the need to protect our environment and to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities. Sprawl may achieve some short term economic needs but is not sustainable in the long run.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.