



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Ian Chadwick

Collingwood

August 29, 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. In Collingwood we have been losing natural heritage to development at an accelerating pace and council should be more pro-active in protecting what is left. In particular, the Silver Creek Wetlands should be more aggressively protected and saved. We have almost no farmland left, but I support protecting it throughout the province and in neighbouring municipalities (I oppose the construction of the 413 highway).

I have always supported open, accountable, and transparent government in my previous terms on council and will continue to do so.

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, I agree there is a need. I served as Communications Director for the Ontario Municipal Water Association and on the board of the Lake Simcoe-South Georgian Bay Source Water Protection Agency. I am well aware of the need to provide clean and safe drinking water, and to protect the sources from contamination. I would ask the town's Risk Management Officer (RMO) to keep council informed of any potential threats to such areas and offer recommendations for protection, including preservation of wetlands, and to engage further with source protection agencies to keep council informed and educated.

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

This is outside the jurisdiction of Collingwood Council. However, our county council representatives (mayor and deputy mayor) should be tasked with supporting groundwater protection throughout the county. Again, asking the source protection agency to keep council informed and updated is crucial to council's education and understanding of the issue.

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

ANSWER

Yes, I support expansion. I have always supported the greenbelt zone to protect valuable resources including farmland and source water from egregious development. I support the provincial policy statement's direction for intensification in existing built areas before development in peripheral zones. As stated, I oppose the 413 highway development, too.

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

ANSWER

Improve public transit to make it more accessible and attractive to users; develop more bicycle- and walking-friendly spaces; traffic calming; renewable energy sources on public facilities (solar and wind); inclusion of permeable paving where possible instead of asphalt or concrete; a switch to electric vehicles for our municipal fleet; exploring green-roof opportunities, explore tiny-house opportunities. I am open to discussing offshore wind turbines in Georgian Bay.

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

As a provincially-designated growth node, Collingwood has few if any agricultural lands left that have not already been bought for development. A lot (perhaps all) of this land has already been approved for future subdivision development. It is preferable to see it happen here rather than on agricultural land in Clearview Township or other rural municipalities. And as said earlier, I support intensification in existing built areas to help slow the vehicle-dependent growth on the periphery. I also support developing "tiny-house" developments.

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

If this is still subject to change and comment, then it should be raised by the next county representatives at the county council, and Collingwood Council should be fully informed and, if possible, asked to offer comment and direction.

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

ANSWER

1. Fast-track the redevelopment of the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital on Poplar Sideroad.

2. Improving and upgrading local infrastructure (fix the streets!)

3. Creating innovative opportunities for housing (tiny houses are a possibility).

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.