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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Ilona Matthews Municipality Wasaga Beach Date: 08/30/22

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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

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 Absolutely! This will be achieved by not catering to developers who want to build over top of wetlands or valuable farmland. There will be no rezoning of these lands for the convenience of development. Aggregate extraction will not be allowed if the watershed is in danger of being destroyed.

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 YES!!

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

ANSWER Yes, I definitely support this expansion of the Greenbelt which would help to preserve our precious farmlands, forests and wetlands.

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

ANSWER Hire a climate specialist and/or strike a committee consisting of staff and volunteer residents to create a climate action plan.

No development on farmland and wetlands. The official plan was created to protect valuable farmlands and the natural environment in compliance with the NVCA. We need to do a re-visiting of the official plan in order to decide what we would like to preserve.

Developers who are friendly to building green – roughly 47% of GHG emissions are caused by traditionally built buildings.

We need foresight for grants to build green which saves great sums of money in the long run with energy efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint. We must INVEST for the future!

Develop a Green Standard building code as many other municipalities have done.

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 Reject applications for rezoning of farmland by developers, and encourage the building of higher density residences as well as low-rise apartment buildings which could also potentially become affordable housing.

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 agree with the residents, of course. Why rezone when there are already suitable properties? I wholeheartedly disagree with Simcoe County Council. It seems there may have been some ulterior motive because council's decision regarding the site did not make any sense.

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

ANSWER

1. controlling development to protect valuable farmlands and the natural environment in compliance with our official plan and the NVCA
2. create a climate action plan to mitigate climate change with staff and volunteer residents of Wasaga Beach or hire a climate change specialist
3. negotiate with the province for a walk-in clinic

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.