



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Jack Contin

Midland

August 31, 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 agree with the principle of protecting rural areas and protecting our watersheds including the aquifer in Simcoe County. I am concerned with the Ministry Zoning Order that can override any decisions on land-use planning.

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

There is a strong urgency to be aware of the importance of water protection whether it's from water extraction, pollutants, or brownfield remediation. I support the Watershed protection programs administered by Severn Sound Environmental Association.

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

I will be advocate for water protection and push for a shared responsibility of protection at the County level. Our local aquifers extend across municipal boundaries, so the matter is a concern to us all. I would also extend that protection to Georgian Bay, which is a vital resource to all our surrounding communities.

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. The recent UNESCO Geopark initiative calls for municipalities to become stewards and do their utmost to conserve the water and land and the expansion would surely create a better understanding to protecting our natural resources in the southern lowlands of Georgian Bay.

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

ANSWER

Upgrades to our wastewater treatment and efficient delivery of water and utilities will help reduce waste and pollution. We also need to preserve our green space. As a small town one of our biggest contributions is maintaining greenspaces that capture carbon. Also, by maintaining our paths and trails along that green space I hope to encourage cyclists within our town, which will also help combat climate change.

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

The municipality has little rural area and the future planning of the municipality's Official Plan is critical in keeping our rural areas protected. Although considered a small urban area, the municipality has an obligation to implement a balanced approach to land-use planning including our rural areas.

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 would take a principled approach in justifying the location of the site. The argument is not whether the site is deemed Agricultural, and the activity is Industrial, the community and County needs to find a common solution in dealing with the growing problem of waste management.

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

ANSWER

1. Listen to the people and advocate for maintaining green space in our communities.
2. Consensus building amongst County decision makers.
3. Advocate for cleaner water and protect and promote Georgian Bay.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.