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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Jamie-Lee Ball

Midland

September 29, 2022

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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

Full transparency on all issues is an absolute. Elected officials should always act with transparency and accountability in mind. Development with preservation require balance. All development projects should account for the best way to preserve as much land as possible and look at alternative ways to create greenspace.

Water is something we are lucky enough to be surrounded by, but this will not be the case if we do not protect it. We need better ways to manage wastewater and pollution so that our water resources are not contaminated. Taking something for granted is a sure way to ensure we no longer have it.

Farmland is being developed frequently for the immediate future. The distant future also needs to be thought of. We need to be making choices that promote the best way for communities, and Ontarians, to be self-sufficient.

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 needs better accountability. Quarries are only supposed to be interim uses of land but the long-term effects of what happens while in creation have shown that the effects are lasting. I think we need to find alternative materials and look at more sustainable choices while protecting jobs that come with the many uses for quarry material.

I am a lifetime member of the Wye Marsh. I recognize the importance of protecting marshlands. This is even more important as lands around marshes are developed. Marshes provide a place for displaced wildlife to go, they can absorb the impact of flooding while also acting as a filtering agent. Wetlands are also a unique learning opportunity for students to incorporate a variety of units while visiting and offer a natural space for recreational activities. Less than 20% of Canada is now home to these wetlands. Midland offers a well-protected space for the continuation of thriving wetlands, and I am devoted to continuing that preservation.

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 believe my previous answers acknowledge the importance I feel for preserving natural water sources. Finding alternative solutions that also allow for job transitioning is much needed.

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

ANSWER

Greenbelt Protection wants to create sustainable communities which is important. Being able to thrive and support the people within your own community, has a greater impact on the Ontarian population.

I do believe there needs to be balance. It is naïve to think we will be able to halt development but that does not mean we do not be intentional with our choices. There

should always be a conscious decision to evaluate all ways in which a project can go forward with the least amount of harm.

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

ANSWER

Midland requires more access to alternative modes of transportation. Increased times and routes for Midland transportation as well as a carpooling solution for commuters or increased morning express buses to the Barrie go-train stations.

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 majority of Midland is single-home dwellings. The ability to create more multi-unit homes is a good start. Creating buildings with intentional rooftops spaces to create growing space. Using hire-rise buildings to create habitats for bees and allow for more pollination gives more plants the chance to be able to grow food. We need to make better use of the space we have by building up and not always out. All buildings do not have to be made extremely tall either, just having smaller, 6 floor buildings still serves the same purpose of increasing land space.

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 think that our wastewater facilities are archaic and so is the idea of updating systems that help areas such as water by eliminating entire other equally as important environmental spaces. Finding alternatives to that is always best practice.

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

ANSWER

1. Utilizing greenspace to create intentional community spaces
2. Protecting marshland and spreading awareness about the benefits
3. Creating affordable housing solutions that incorporate growing and pollinating spaces

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.