



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

JAY FALLIS

ORILLIA

September 8th, 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?

Yes, absolutely! I agree with all of those principles. Our focus as elected representatives should be limiting urban sprawl as much as possible, and protecting all natural heritage features, water resources, etc.

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?

Yes, we should be doing everything we can to limit development on wetlands and other sensitive water areas within Orillia. If re-elected, I will do my best to advocate for this principle at planning meetings and at discussions on the city’s official plan and zoning. I will also commit to always voting with the environment in mind and listening to environmental groups when problems are brought forward.

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?

As a Councillor in Orillia, I will do what I can to draw attention to the issue. That could mean urging the Orillia council to write a public letter to the Provincial Government as well as supporting other council members in that area on the issue. It is very upsetting to hear that there is disregard for such an amazing natural resource. We need to protect essential natural treasures for our own well-being as well as for generations to come.

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

I support expanding the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. We are incredibly fortunate to have such fertile land within our area that is both a food source and an environmental gem. We need to do more to protect it, NOT develop it.

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

As a Councillor, addressing Climate Change has been a major focus. I have been a big proponent for supporting environmentally sensitive choices at the municipal level. I was pleased that the Orillia City Council adopted the Climate Change Action Plan which sets ambitious targets to get the City of Orillia to zero carbon emissions over the next 30-40 years. I have also been a strong advocate of improving waste diversion in the city. This includes playing a leading role in bringing the "Take a Bag, Leave a Bag" Pilot Program to Orillia stores to reduce the need for single use plastic bags.

If re-elected, I also intend to see through Orillia's Climate Change Action Plan, which will require continued commitment from council in the years to come. In addition, support for improved stormwater treatment, pollinator friendly gardens, community gardens, and further improvements to waste sorting and diversion (to name a few), will further help to address climate change issues.

By making environmentally conscious decisions, we can protect our community for the next generation and ensure that the health and quality of life for all Orillians will improve.

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?

My family has a farm in Oro-Medonte, so this is an issue that is close to my heart. I believe that our city needs to veer away from the harmful urban sprawl model. Orillia should be designed to be environmentally friendly with a focus on medium density (3 or 4 storey buildings), diversifying neighbourhoods, and creating more 15 minute communities (a community where most things are walkable within 15 minutes from a person's door). In addition, it is essential that environmentally sensitive areas within the city are preserved rather than developed. Avoiding sprawl as much as possible should be our priority.

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?

I agree with residents that this location is a poor choice. It would have been much wiser to put the ERRC in another location. It makes little sense to put such a facility in the middle of a valuable forest. We don't get a second chance when it comes to our environment. We need to value and protect what we have.

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

ANSWER

1. Affordable Housing

2. Protecting the Environment and keeping Orillia beautiful

3. Ensuring Municipal Services (such as sidewalk snow plowing, snow plowing, and grass cutting on city property) are more responsive.

=====

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.