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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Jim Seili

Wasaga Beach

September 13, 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, I absolutely agree with these objectives. As a child my family were farmers and I grew up working the land. As an adult I have worked in the agricultural industry full time from 1985 to 2014. I then moved into the construction industry but still work part time every other weekend on a dairy farm. Agriculture is one of my many passions.

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 do support the protection of wetlands. We need to create a buffer around the wetlands. Any development within those areas need to be limited along with the limited/lack of use of fertilizers and pesticides so that the natural growth can continue and be preserved.

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, as a resident of this area since 1985 I understand how pure the water here is. Back in 2008/2009 I attended a protest against site 41 outside of Elmvale. I would have thought that the company opening the gravel pit would have had to put in place a firm plan before being allowed to open it. Gravel as well is an important commodity for maintaining our areas infrastructure.

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

ANSWER

Yes, I support the Simcoe County Greenbelt. I believe the area needs to be maintained closely, studies need to be done and certain areas need to be set aside for wildlife and green space for trails and parks.

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

ANSWER

Currently I have committed to looking at and bringing forth the initiative to hire a Climate Action Specialist, forming an Advisory committee on climate action and aiding in the creation of a climate change action plan.

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

Yes, I would support an act to deem certain agriculture land for non-development purposes. That being said, it would also be the landowners right to sell to whom ever they wish to.

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

As above, I attended the protest against the new dump site in Springwater Township at site 41. I don't know why land can't be set aside from an old dump site that is already being used for garbage and use that site to build a recycling facility.

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

ANSWER

1) Infrastructure: My immediate focus would be to implement sidewalks around schools and amenities. Currently Birch View Dunes Public School has no sidewalks and I feel this is a serious safety hazard for our communities' children and the families who go to this school. Many of the children walk to this school and lack of safety is a core issue. This goes for other areas in Wasaga Beach where many community members utilize amenities and businesses and only have the option to walk. Our town should be safe for everyone including children and those with disabilities to access safely and without concern for their safety.

I would also like to see a bridge put in place that extends between Mosley and River Road West that would be placed at Veterans Way. This would ease some of the traffic congestion and allow for better flow. Currently there can be many delays for community residents to go about their day and often I hear it keeps many in their homes on busy weekends because the frustration of trying to do their daily business is too daunting.

2) Affordable housing: There is a huge need for affordable low income and fixed income housing. There are many residents who can not afford the housing market and therefore need support in order to live quality lives for themselves and their families. This includes all persons. Those who are starting out with raising a family, those who have endured the hardship of Covid 19, single parents who are doing the best they can and also seniors who are aging and encountering extra cost with illness ect who don't have the same opportunity to earn a wage like they used to.

3) Support for small and home-based businesses: Our town thrives on small businesses. Summer tourism is usually beneficial to these owners and although our town is growing in the off-summer months, many still find it a struggle to keep costs of business suitable to off set costs outside of the

summer months. We have tremendous potential to keep a small town feel of comfort and reliability of fresh, individual, and trendy purchases and services that keep a small town growing with intimacy and personality. These businesses should be supported where we can, given breaks and incentives to keep their business as lively and productive as we want our town to be. Business is what keeps a town going, where we be without them.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.