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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Jonathan Main

Midland Ontario

Sept 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?

I was fortunate to be a representative on Midland’s Official Plan update as a councillor and we enacted key policies to protect natural heritage and source-water protection areas.

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?

Midland has aggregate extraction but also newly adopted source-water protection policies to protect our groundwater. Midland relies entirely on groundwater for our drinking water with most of our water from Hwy 12 and Vindin well fields. Protecting our drinking water means targeting specific chemicals, solvents and pollutants like TCE.

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

Aggregate extraction has become quite a divisive issue locally, and I would like to learn more about the hydrogeology and science around this topic. I have been a strong supporter of source-water protection in Midland and advocate for sustainable development and low impact development standards.

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

The greenbelt is a useful planning tool to highlight key areas of natural heritage and agricultural significance to the province. Simcoe County has incredible areas of incredible natural beauty and vast agricultural communities.

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

Midland is a FCM Partner for Climate Protection and we are working on the next milestone. SSEA is the new parent organization of Sustainable Severn Sound committee which is the key local organization for collaboration on sustainability.

Two specific initiatives I'd like to launch in Midland would be community energy planning and urban tree management.

Midland continues to work to address modal shift – by investing in our excellent local transit, expanding our cycling network and walkability.

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

Midland has the opportunity to promote infill growth through intensification. That means reviewing our zoning bylaw and investing in our downtown.

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

This site offers an amazing opportunity for a world class diversion facility in the geographic centre of Simcoe County. The success of the Simcoe County forest program allows the county to continually expand the forest system, to accommodate for the lost green space from the facility. The monumental backlash against Site 41 has positioned the county to pursue sustainable waste management practices like recycling and green bin/composting programs.

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

ANSWER

1. Housing - focus on Affordable housing
2. Economic Recovery - make sure no one in Midland falls behind
3. Liveability - Midland is an amazing community and focusing on policies and programs that improve the quality of life is critical.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.