



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

...Leslie Farkas.....

Wasaga.....

Sept 15, 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 am in full agreement with the goal of AWARE, and believe strongly that transparency and accountability need to be a focus. Proactively planning our community to ensure Wasaga Beach maintains its identity as a natural community is paramount to our long-term success. Creating a twenty-year plan, taking into consideration; research, open public consultation and long-term goals for our town, will allow us as a community to determine who we want to be and what we want to preserve.

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

2. There is a definite need to protect our wetlands, water and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in our municipality. This can be achieved by prohibiting the rezoning and development of our natural environment in these sensitive areas. Building well planned complete communities is paramount to achieving this goal.

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

3. Advocacy is always an important step towards achieving a goal that is not directly in your control. Whenever faced with a decision in which there is a clear threat to our natural resources, I will vote to preserve our environment and put our residents first.

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

ANSWER

The natural identity of Wasaga Beach is a large part of why many are here. Expansion and further protection of the Greenbelt, in Simcoe County, is a must. If we want to keep residents in Wasaga Beach, we should support this as it is the primary reason they live in Wasaga Beach.

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

ANSWER

5. My plans to prepare and help mitigate changes in Climate include; the creation of a Climate Advisory Committee and the establishment of a Climate Change Action Plan. These actions will better prepare our community for future changes, allowing for a better outlook for our residents.

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

6. The protection of agricultural lands, is vital to all our success. The undeniable fact that our population is increasing while our agricultural lands are decreasing daily, is one that cannot be ignored. The need to protect these agricultural lands are as much a reality as the need to eat. Preventing irresponsible rezoning of our agricultural lands and proper community planning must be a 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?

ANSWER

7. While this is a very important and much needed facility, protecting our environment is also important. We can protect the environment through using existing industrial zoned lands. The decision has been made and the construction of facility is underway, however, in future, I would like to see more focus on preservation when researching options.

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

ANSWER

a. 1. Protecting our environment by proactively planning our community. This ensures we keep our identity as a natural community. The creation of a 20-year plan using; research, open public consultation and long-term goals, will define who we want to be as a community and what we want to preserve.

b. 2. Ensuring the safety and security of our residents. This can be accomplished through proper focus on things that keep us safe such as; policing, health, sidewalks and roads, I will put our residents first!

c. 3. Building complete communities. Every community should have the amenities needed by its residents. Extensive travel to get where and what we need is not an acceptable solution. I will put a proactive focus on attracting the businesses we need rather than settling for the businesses we get. As well as protecting and extending natural

resources, and holding developers to a higher standard. Developers need to contribute to developing complete communities rather than just putting up house after house after house.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.