



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date:</u>
Lori Hutcheson	Oro-Medonte Twp	Sept 23, 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 – We have opportunity to look at our unique Township through the eyes of good stewardship and care for our natural surrounding and preservation of our food basket! Prime Agricultural Lands.

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 -By working with experts and listening to the science. I would like to see greater protection of the Oro Moraine from development pressure.

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 – this should be a priority.

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

ANSWER: We need to keep current protections in place and look for further protections. Our greenbelt is the “breath” in our ecosystem.

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

ANSWER: I would promote the Township looking to move its fleet to electric vehicles, and put in place building requirements with increased green standards. Work toward more “walkable” communities – and have a much more robust Official Plan which combines the need for more affordable housing with concept of communities being developed.

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: Keep the Agricultural Zoning in place, and do not change it. Thereby protecting this land from potential severance and development.

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 am not familiar enough with this particular issue to comment.

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

ANSWER

1. Increase and embrace greater communication with the Council and Township.
2. Involve citizens in decision making in a meaningful way – Ie Advisory Groups.
3. Demonstrate and advocate for professionalism at the council table.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.