



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Marty Beelen

Clearview

Aug. 31, 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

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 volunteer at the GTAA hatchery and I see just how sensitive the fish are from changes in water quality. I would push to make sure any development or intrusive activities were limited or had to treat any effluent.

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. I realize that gravel pit extractions are needed for development, but this should occur where they do not threaten our water supply.

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

ANSWER

I would support the expansion of the greenbelt. I feel we need to preserve our farmland, wildlife habitat and water supply.

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

ANSWER

Support any initiatives proposed by the Ontario government, simcoe county and our local government.

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

The Ontario government has planned growth and development. Local governments need to push for development that does not destroy agricultural lands.

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

If it is zoned agricultural, then it should stay agricultural. I feel simcoe county does a great job in separating waste at their facilities to reduce amounts going to landfill. I still think there is room for improvement here but our sites are filling up quickly. Everyone says, "not in my back yard" but new sites are needed. I think we really need to investigate where the new site should be.

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

ANSWER

1. Locally our taxes have risen more than many other townships. My priority is to limit tax increases. Many seniors on fixed income and first time home owners are really struggling with the current inflation. I think we need to spend our money wisely.

2. Development of the infrastructure is important for the growth and development. Rising construction costs and material costs have made some projects too expensive. I think we need to look at the scope of some of these projects, prioritizing the projects and doing what is needed and not what is just wanted.

3. I think ensuring the safety on our roads has become important. Traffic on our roads had increased dramatically as drivers look for alternate routes to the north other than highway 400. A number of roads have design flaws that need to be corrected. Several intersections have had far too many accidents. I am glad that Simcoe County is already studying one of the worst ones at simcoe county road 9 and center line road.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.