



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Matt Garwood

Municipality

Springwater

Date:

09/15/2022

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 – Yes, as presented in Our Plan on [www.electmattgarwood.ca](http://www.electmattgarwood.ca)**

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 – I understand the importance of protecting the natural areas and resources of our municipality. It is key that we continue protecting our farmland while encouraging smart growth. Growth must be balanced with an environmentally sensitive conscience.**

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 – Having lived in Springwater my entire life and being a resident of the Elmvale community, I take pride in knowing our community has the cleanest scientifically tested water in the world. When elected I will always be an advocate for our local environment and waterways as part of the fabric of our community and our future sustainability.**

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

**ANSWER – Our forests, lakes, and waterways are an intrinsic part of what makes Simcoe County and Springwater Township such a great place to call home. Preserving our local environment and green space is a priority for me and the residents of Springwater Township.**

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

**ANSWER – Council needs to work with their County, Provincial, and Federal partners to advocate for the environmental concerns of Springwater Township so we can be part of the larger solution in combatting climate change.**

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 – Growing up on a farm, I understand the importance of farmland and keeping family farms viable. With agriculture being the most important segment of our Township's economy, the agricultural industry must be protected. While population growth and new development will allow for additional services to become available and will help local businesses thrive, farms and the agricultural industry feed families and drive our local economy. Smart growth strategies can help our community grow and develop while maintaining our rural roots and small-town charm.**

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 – While the County has decided on this location for the facility, Springwater Township can and should still be a place recognized for bountiful forests and waterways. When elected, I will advocate for environmental protections around new projects to ensure we maintain and preserve the natural integrity of our Township.**

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

ANSWER

- 1. I will protect the agricultural industry from increasing development due to population growth and encourage the continued viability of our farmland.**
- 2. I will always choose to preserve the Elmvale Arena. It is the heart of Elmvale, the meeting spot of our community, and provides economic growth within Springwater.**
- 3. I will prioritize road safety by researching speed limits, speed bumps, and crossings around schools and subdivisions as well as additional digital speed checkpoints.**

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.