



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

...Megan Varga.....

...Innisfil.....

...September 1, 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

Absolutely. I worked with Innisfil staff on the Municipal Comprehensive Review to ensure areas were maintained in the Natural Heritage System, end of last year and beginning of this year.

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

Absolutely. As a Councillor, I will review all aspects of any request for development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities, not just the staff report. I will consult with subject matter experts to ensure there are no adverse effects.

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

Absolutely. In 2009 I championed a campaign to prevent a proposal for commercial water taking from the Alliston Aquifer. In 2018, the matter was closed and no water is being commercially taken from the proposed site. I will continue to fight to protect water, from any source, but especially the Alliston Aquifer!

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

ANSWER

I support the expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County. We need to have responsible development and stop urban sprawl. The Greenbelt is a great tool to ensure this happens!

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

ANSWER

I intend on encouraging the municipality to increase the Natural Heritage Cover, as well as help facilitate discussions for a transit solution.

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 only way to protect it is responsible development. Stop urban sprawl, build up, not out.

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

The rezoning of property should not be taken lightly. If there are other suitable properties that already conform to the required zoning for a project, they should be utilized, as opposed to rezoning another site.

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

ANSWER

- 1. Focusing on protecting Lake Simcoe and the environmental features we all love
- 2. Bettering road and pedestrian safety, and better transit options
- 3. Available and responsive to residents

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.