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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Michael Lewis Municipality: Barrie Date: September 27, 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 do not agree with protecting farmland inside city limits. There is enough space for farming in the rest of the county. I agree with the protection of our water resources at any cost. The Federal Liberals have earmarked monies to preserve Lake Simcoe. Natural Heritage inside the city is dwindling, the control of which is hands of developers. Transparency and accountability are supposed to be of top priority in any government however it doesn't seem to work that way in recent years. I believe in being transparent because honesty is the best policy and I have nothing to gain by lying.

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? I feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas. Nature needs these to keep the environment healthy. I would vote against any such activities against these areas from happening. Our children deserve the same world we were given from our parents. There us plenty of other less harmful areas to do these activities. The county and province are massive areas with lots of access to resources.

ANSWER

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'm not sure how yet but when a solution becomes available I will get behind it.

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. What people who wish to develop the Greenbelt don't seem to understand is that it will not look as pristine as it does now when developed. It'll look like a subdivision not the natural habitat that it is.

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

ANSWER Renew, reuse and recycle.

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 city of Barrie has already deleted farmlands within city limits. The problem I find in the farming community is nobody wants to farm anymore. This generation would rather work in an office than on a tractor. With that attitude how do we stop the sprawl? Being a bedroom community so close to Toronto it makes it difficult to stop the sprawl. The farmlands in southwestern and south-eastern Ontario have been and continue to avoid said sprawl I've noticed.

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 agree with using an already designated location as opposed to creating one.

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

ANSWER

1.Representing the constituents of Ward 4

2.Making decisions to benefit the City of Barrie's growth

3.Equality for all residents of the City of Barrie

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.