



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Paul Cain

Orillia

September 10, 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. The City of Orillia has a huge wetland area in Ward 1 and I personally don't want to see it developed.

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

Orillia Council cannot dictate how the neighbouring townships handle their resources. I am sure the townships are working with the MOE to ensure any alterations don't cause lasting damage.

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. Keeping farmland and wetlands intact is important for future generations. This preserves Ontario's ability to stand on its own two feet utilising some of the best farmland in the world.

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

ANSWER

I would love to see more rooftop solar and rooftop gardens. I would like to see more trees planted. What's that saying? The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

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

Orillia doesn't have a lot of farmland. What Orillia can do is build up. Intensification and 'infilling' neighbourhoods will create smaller, more efficient homes for people who want to downsize or live green.

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 see from reading <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/swm/errc> this isn't quite fully approved to go ahead and there are still some steps to complete. It looks like there is still time for interested parties to appeal to the MOE and make a case.

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

ANSWER

1. Balance the budget
2. Infrastructure improvements
3. Housing and intensification

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.