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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Peter Barbati

Municipality

New Tecumseth Ward 7

Sept 12/22

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 support this goal with the proviso that fees charged to residents are maintained at as low a level as possible.

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 This can best be done by ensuring strict regulations regarding the aftermath of development, extraction or any “intrusive” activities, but, “intrusive activities” needs to be better defined to help prevent any misunderstandings.

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

Preserving all sources of clean water is imperative. The cost of preventing damage to water sources is significantly less than the cost of cleaning polluted water sources, or dealing with the ill health results of polluted waters.

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 and feel there is an urgent need to protect clean water sources BUT I also believe that we need to balance out several issues: the need for more obtainable (affordable) housing, the need for more tax-inputs from new construction and the need to help minimise increases in ever-increasing property tax levels.

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

ANSWER

This is too broad a question to be answered here.

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 need for affordable housing will not lessen without the construction of homes (of various types). It is imperative to balance the need for housing and the need to protect farmland. This is done with careful and thoughtful planning of communities.

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 have to wonder why Simcoe County chose a forest when suitable industrial lands are available. That choice seems short-sighted but I wonder if high traffic patterns, and the potential of offensive odours are a factor in their decision?

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

ANSWER

1. Help to maintain or lessen impact on property taxes.
2. Help to strengthen our community commercial areas (local business) and introduce much needed industry into our area.
3. Work to promote attainable housing options.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.