



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Phil Brennan

Township of Severn

Sep0222

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

I plan to be an active participant in finalizing the official plan and to advocate for the protection of wetlands. recharge areas, fisheries habitat and natural heritage as proposals are put forward to Council. I am going to recommend to Council that the Township of Severn join other municipalities in demanding that the Ontario government put a moratorium on new aggregate licences and licence expansions.

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

I am going to focus my efforts in Severn Township.

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. I believe that if it becomes clear that the battle to stop the Bradford By-Pass (which is a bad planning initiative) becomes a losing battle that it would be wise for the residents of Simcoe County to demand that any Greenbelt area lost be replaced two to three-fold with sites of significant natural heritage value in Simcoe County. And that should also include the significant losses that will occur as developers destroy greenbelt lands adjacent to that unnecessary highway.

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

ANSWER

According to the IESO (Strengthening Communities through Energy Efficiency), in 2014, municipalities spent more than \$900 million annually on electricity. Ontario municipal operations were electricity (63%) and natural gas (35%), with minor use of other fuels including hot water from district cooling, propane, and fuel oils. I will support energy savings initiatives on infrastructure such as wastewater treatment facilities, lighting, arenas and fleet management. I will also promote capitalizing value of the ecosystem services provided by our wetlands and forests.

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

I will advocate for the protection of productive farmlands; support local food production initiatives and community food programs; and look for opportunities to support educational initiatives by farm groups in our area.

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

This is outside of Severn Township and I intend to focus my Councillor time on working with the people of Severn. Having said that, if I was part of a group that was challenging this proposal, I would have proposed that in return for this loss, the County should be adding significant natural heritage sites to the public domain – sites that are highly protected and perhaps even become part of the Greenbelt in Simcoe.

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

Note – I have been acclaimed.

ANSWER

1. Actively participate in the Municipal Comprehensive Review, Official Plan, and annexation initiative (Orillia – Severn) to get the best possible commitments in place for the mid to long -term benefit of all affected parties.

2. Advocate for the development of an Economic Plan for Severn to attract progressive businesses and provide youth in our community with good paying jobs.

3. To work on both long-term and short-term solutions to the challenges we are facing with regard to short-term rental accommodations. This, and road safety challenges, are currently the top issues that are being brought forth by Ward 3 residents in Severn.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.