



## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Rob Nicol

Innisfil

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.**

=====

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 have been appointed as a director of the NVCA for six years now and I was the one who brought forth the motion to Innisfil Council on Bill 229 to respect and protect the work of Conservation Authorities which was passed unanimously. I worked collaboratively with members of Council's around Lake Simcoe to urge the Province and York Region to separate the proposed phosphorus reduction facility from the stalled Upper York Sewage Solution and to get Provincial funding for it as well to help protect our lake and finally get closer to the phosphorus targets set out. I have always been known to make fact-based decisions for the good our residents, town and environment.

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 In my eight years on council, Innisfil has not approved any aggregate activity, we have stopped any water taking activity proposed and we have worked to minimize any additional sprawl in our community including working to intensify a transit-oriented community in a future planned residential development area.

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 Obviously, our town council can't tell another town council what to do but, as I have personally proven, when neighbouring municipalities are making decisions, especially those which impact all of us downstream and/or in the watershed, we do have an opportunity to engage and motivate good decisions just as witnessed with the York Region's phosphorus reduction facility progress.

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

ANSWER I believe that there is a delicate balance between the two choices provided. We do need to continue to review and consider adding where it is deemed beneficial while not detrimentally impacting communities by just greenbelting everything.

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

ANSWER As a town we have already declared a climate emergency and we work with the development community to provide for more sustainable projects. We need to continue to work with our counterparts around Lake Simcoe as well as the rest of Simcoe County for a united effort.

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 Innisfil is already fighting to protect the rural fabric of our community. Our Orbit plan will create a transit-oriented community around our new GO Station on lands that were already earmarked for single detached residential development. This intensification will help us achieve our provincial and county growth targets without just using urban sprawl into our cherished agricultural lands.

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 was not on County Council so, unlike those 36 members who were, I did not receive all of the background information, facts and rationale, whether in-camera or not, which lead them to choose this site. What justification I did read about seemed to provide a reasonable conclusion to choose that site and honestly, sometimes we need to balance the overall benefits for the entire County of Simcoe to the disappointment of some.

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

ANSWER

1. Out of the 9 council positions in Innisfil, we will see a **minimum** of 5 or 6 brand new council members elected this October. So, my first priority will be to reach out to try and help them get up to speed at least procedurally, since many may have never even been in chambers before. We have many large projects coming up and the decisions this council will make over the next four years will impact all of us for decades and beyond.

2. Orbit. We need to continue to advance our transit-oriented community, get realistic design plans and shovels in the ground to help accommodate the growth thrust upon us by the Province and County. By intensifying this already planned residential area we can better shape our community and impede urban sprawl into our farmlands and ruining why we all chose to call Innisfil home.

3. Infrastructure, we need to find the funding models and consider regional type services to provide the \$100's of millions in new infrastructure for our town. We have to provide electrical power services to the previously annexed Barrie South lands which in turn will become a great source of revenue for Innisfil. We have Water and Waste Water expansion that will continue to be required and we need to finish servicing our Employment lands at the 400 in a fiscally responsible manner to finally provide our residents the option of local employment as well as to the new RVH campus coming on-line over the next 10 years.

=====

Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.