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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Municipality

Date:

Robert Young

Oro-Medonte Twp

September 15, 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 am in total agreement that there is an ongoing need to preserve our farmlands from the expansion of settlements areas and industrial development into rural farmlands and the preservation of our natural heritage that includes forested areas and waterways. I have personally demonstrated this in my opposition in the commercialization of farmland (rezoning) where a new "Webers" restaurant and other commercial facilities was to be built on farm land at Hwy. 400 and Mt. St. Louis Rd. Further, the owner had constructed two commercial grade bridges in the Coldwater River Valley as part of a trail system for "future patrons" of his restaurant across the Coldwater River on EP lands out of sight of everyone without the knowledge of or consent of anyone including the NVCA. I fought the NVCA for two years to do something to remove the bridges but it was only when I wrote a 16-page investigative report and spoke directly to the NVCA's Toronto lawyer that the owner of Webers and his company was charged and plead guilty in court. The company was fined, the court ordered the removal of one of the bridges, and the restoration of the river valley to its "natural" state before the construction of the bridges which involved the planting of trees and fauna.**

**The owner of the property was, in fact, attempting to commercialize the pristine Coldwater River Valley for profit.**

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

**Same as above.**

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 will vote to continue the moratorium on the expansion of or the creation of any new gravel pits in Oro-Medonte to protect the Oro-Medonte moraine.**

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

ANSWER

**Yes, I totally support the expansion of the 'Greenbelt' into Simcoe County.**

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

ANSWER

**I will need to read experts' reports to be fully informed on what we can do in a practical sense, but we can start with the electrification of all township vehicles.**

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

**Protecting farmland is all about rezoning by council and any future residential developments or industrial developments should be confined to the designated "settlement" areas or designated "industrial areas" of Oro-Medonte.**

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

**Briefly, in previously reading about this issue, I understand that there are other areas where the complex can be built, and I fail to understand why that council has reasoned why that location clearly when the people of Simcoe County strongly object to its location. On its surface, it makes no sense.**

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

ANSWER

**1.**

**To stop the dumping of effluent (human sewage) through a pipeline from housing developments along the Horseshoe Valley Road corridor into the pristine Coldwater River, a spawning area for salmon and trout, turning the river into a sewer for this generation and all subsequent generations of people in Oro- Medonte. It will be a dead river with no life.**

**It makes no sense, only to the developers who are profit oriented, and do not live in Oro-Medonte. My position is if you want to construct houses in Oro-Medonte, you construct self-contained sewage systems wherein there is no need to dump effluent/sewage into the nearest body of water, in this case the Coldwater River.**

**If that can't be done, go elsewhere to construct your housing developments. We have this opportunity to set Oro-Medonte apart and let the world know that there are other means of the disposal of effluent to avoid polluting the environment and that Oro-Medonte has strict regulations regarding the disposal of effluent.**

**Where does it end, once that pipe outflow is in place in the Coldwater River, all other future housing developments along the H.V. corridor will be dumping human waste into the river.**

**I know for a fact, as the river runs through my farm, that there are times when the river is low enough to expose the sand bars in the river. How concentrated will the effluent be in the river during those times?**

**In the Cole report, it is referred to as "treated water"...it is not treated water, but treated human waste...it just sounds better than factually stating what it is!**

**2.**

**Prevent the unnecessary removal of trees or tree stands by developers during pre-construction of housing developments sites. A by-law specific to Oro-Medonte that is enforceable and is enforced needs to be created by council in Oro-Medonte. Currently, developers level the land to make it easier for construction crews to build roads and housing with no regard for the environment, as in their view, time spent protecting the trees is a loss of profit to the developers.**

**I believe that potential purchasers would much rather see a housing development with mature trees and tree stands. This is rural Oro-Medonte, not the GTA.**

**I fail to understand why with the housing plans in front of them, why trees, in particular the mature trees and mature tree stands cannot be protected with fencing during construction, as I have witnessed during construction, but not in Oro-Medonte.**

**We are talking about a healthier environment for those who purchase the houses including their kids and all residents of Oro-Medonte.**

**The proposed by-law would make it a legal requirement that this by-law be respected and enforced during construction with major fines as a deterrent to developers. It just makes sense.**

**Creation of a by-law and strict enforcement of that by-law would be a "wake-up" signal to Toronto based developers. The GTA or those developers from other areas of the province that the environment and preservation of our environment is a major concern to the residents of Oro-Medonte and is the law.**

**"Through Trees We Breathe"**

**3.**

**Protection of the water resources in Oro-Medonte given the effects of climate change, is a priority in Oro-Medonte. I believe that very few people are AWARE of the fact that large tanker trucks with thousands of litres of pure water from our deep ground aquifers are pumped out daily from a nondescript building on the 9th line of Oro-Medonte. As water resources is a provincial matter, we residents of Oro-Medonte currently have no say in the amount of water that is being taken from (our) aquifers in Oro-Medonte.**

**The company takes the water at no or at a minimal cost, to bottle and then sell it.**

**The company should be held publicly accountable in producing the figures, as currently no one knows (other than the province) of the amount of water taken in Oro-Medonte as the company is self-regulated.**

**That has to change.**

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.