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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Robert Malfara

Penetanguishene City Councillor

August 29,2022

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, Proper conservational efforts can go a very long way in ensuring a harmony or balance in preservation. Government should always be transparent and accountable for decisions and actions, we need to push for more transparency and accountability in all levels of government.

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, Protecting our water should be a number one priority for any community. By keeping the need for water protection on the top of the minds of all community members we will be able to ensure water, wetland and recharge areas will stay a protected area ensuring clean drinking water for our community and our neighbouring communities.

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

Yes, Water protection is and will always be my top priority, as it rightfully should be all the candidates top priority. This water source should be studied and protected, we need to find a way to increase the funding to protect this from all levels of government. This is a gift that if we are not careful will go away.

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

ANSWER

I do not believe in expanding the greenbelt into Simcoe County. I hold Landowner rights in high regard and do believe greenbelts have overreach and should not be welcome.

I believe what we need is our municipalities to stand behind clean water, stand behind conservation using the greenbelt as a model of what happens when it is too late or when enough is not done to properly preserve. We need to increase funding to match initiatives and outperform what a green belt could do and call that the new normal.

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

ANSWER

With recent disasters worldwide we need to rethink our disaster awareness, how ready is our community for a flash flood?. The 100 year storm rule is what has kept us safe but we seem to have 1 - 2 "100 year" storms a year hit the province and sometimes even worse. With preparedness and active green initiatives (tree planting, waterfront cleanup, invasive species removal, etc.), we as a community can keep combating climate change together

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

Increasing density and stopping urban sprawl, Protecting farmland is just as important as protecting our water.

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

One thing I do know is garbage is a stinky business and as a community we do create an abundance of garbage and we do have to handle it somehow, it doesn't just magically disappear when we place it at the curb (although when they do their jobs well enough it sure does feel that way). With my limited knowledge on the subject and the sound of urgency (much needed) from the county my view is unless we put less waste out for them to take away they will have to find a way to deal with the waste.

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

ANSWER

1. Clean Water
2. Infrastructure upgrades
3. Safe and vibrant community for many years to come

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.