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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Shanicka Edwards

Municipality: Barrie, Ward 2

Date: September 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.

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. There are various ways to achieve this goal including with working with local organizations dedicated to our water and wetlands to ensure they have the resources required to maintain the beauty and health of our water.

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

As a personal consumer of groundwater, I understand the value and the importance of protecting these treasures. Water is an element that needs to be protected and prioritised at all costs.

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. Our beautiful county only stands to benefit from the protections of the Greenbelt - we cannot grow crops and raise animals in a concrete jungle.

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

ANSWER

My efforts would include lowering our overall environmental and ecological footprint by helping to provide a more walking and biking friendly community. I would look at things like contamination due to old pipes that continue to make their way down to our body of water and find effective ways to increase the quality of infrastructure while working to decrease the long and short term effects.

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

As Councillor of Ward 2, I won't have the final say, but that doesn't mean I won't speak up. Farmland and farmers are an essential part of our lives.

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

Protecting all of our forests will be one of my top priorities, that includes making sure that wherever we build waste handling facilities is congruent with the objectives and long term goals of our City Plan.

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

ANSWER

1. Encourage the use of eco-friendly travel. (ie. electric transportation, bike lanes)
2. Protect and preserve farmland, water resources and natural heritage.
- 3.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.