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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Shawn Bubel (for Ward 2)

Essa Township

August 30, 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?

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?

Yes, we only have one planet and conservation is paramount. Decisions of this nature need scientific scrutiny, public input, and transparency.

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?

As a candidate for a Township Ward, if elected, I would not be part of County Council. However, I would support our Mayor and Deputy Mayor with research and relaying public feedback.

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

I would need more information and input from subject matter experts before reaching a definitive position.

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

I support encouraging green technologies, structure retrofits, new public buildings that are LEED certified, less fossil fuel consumption where achievable, and promoting walkable neighbourhoods less reliant on the automobile.

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?

Suburban sprawl puts a strain on the environment, but it also erodes the tax base. Essa has a proud tradition of agriculture and a strong record of supporting farmers. If elected, I would support continuing those policies.

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?

As a candidate for a Township Ward, if elected, I would not be part of County Council. However, I would support our Mayor and Deputy Mayor with research and relaying public feedback.

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

1. Apply for and secure new revenue streams from higher levels of government to help improve our facilities, support service delivery, and build sustainable infrastructure.

2. Help protect our environment and promote our local hidden gems and programs we offer to reach a wider audience.

3. If elected, I would like to bring forward a motion to record and retain Council meetings for posterity. Currently, the only way to experience a meeting is to attend in-person or view a livestream during the dinner hours. Having a public record to look back on avoids confusion and encourages a more engaged community.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.