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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Shira Harrison McIntyre

Municipality

New Tecumseth

Date:

Sept 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?

ANSWER

Preservation of farmland and protection of water resources are essential in order to maintain our natural heritage. New Tecumseth is under intense pressure to develop greenfield lands for housing and industrial development. The Provincial Government was elected with a strong majority and mandate for development, this is evident with the number of MZO applications put forward in New Tecumseth. MZO application seek to circumvent municipal planning and public input. I work to ensure that development occurs within designated areas as per the official plan and have a voting record of opposing MZO applications.

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?

I firmly believe there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and loss of greenfield to development. I successfully worked to develop a site plan agreement in New Tecumseth to control the fill being

imported to the Tottenham Airfield. I understand that aggregate is the responsibility of the MNR and that there is a need for aggregate materials in order to maintain and build our roads. As municipalities we can work with the landowners and the MNR to ensure that these projects are mitigated and have the least negative impacts on our residents. Partnering and supporting our conservation agencies is another important part of successfully protecting our vulnerable watershed areas. I would also continue to advocate for Low Impact Development (L.I.D.) projects which allow water to infiltrate at site rather than being carried to stormwater management ponds along with pollutants.

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?

I support efforts to protect groundwater in New Tecumseth, the Nottawasaga watershed and Lake Simcoe watershed.

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

I am dedicated to the protection of natural habitats areas in New Tecumseth however I believe that the province is unlikely to support Greenbelt expansion into Simcoe County in the present or near future. Preservation efforts need to be made to support adherence to current municipal land use planning, tax incentives for landowners in greenspace and support of land conservancy actions. New Tecumseth donated a key forested area in my ward to Oak Ridges Land Conservancy. They are interested in expanding out from that land tract and I will work with them to assist any landowners who may be interested in leaving a conservation legacy.

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

The Town of New Tecumseth must continue to intensify residential development within existing urban areas by including housing of various sizes and number of units. There must be commercial and industrial growth within urban areas to employ residents in their communities. These intensification efforts will save land from being paved over, reduce commuter traffic and encourage walking. I will also support having the Environmental

Advisor Committee restructured as this is a group of dedicated and intelligent residents who bring their wealth of knowledge and experience to council with projects that move the municipality forward in its' strategic objective to be environmentally committed.

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?

The best way to save farmland is to create an environment where farms are thriving. Farm operations must be supported in a variety of ways in order that they remain active, viable businesses in our community. Farmers are under tremendous stress due to high costs of fuel, feed, seed and fertilizer and we must advocate for these businesses at the municipal, provincial and federal level. I oppose turning farmland into housing and yet so much of New Tecumseth is owned by speculators who intend to do just that. It is up to the municipality to control and direct the growth, protecting our vulnerable rural and 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?

I believe that an existing industrial use area, which was located in an area with access to existing roads that are appropriate for heavy load transportation would have been more ideal.

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

ANSWER

1. Manage and Control Growth ensuring we adhere to our Official Plan

2. Road Maintenance and Safety

3. Protect rural and agricultural lands

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.