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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Steve Berman

Collingwood

Aug 31. 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 (protect water, wetlands) Yes. Collingwood is in the process of updating our official plan. Nothing can be accomplished without a majority vote from council, so speculating on how one candidate can achieve this moot.

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 - Not applicable to Collingwood

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

ANSWER - I do not have data to support an educated position on this item.

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

ANSWER - On Oct 16, 2019 Council unanimously approved my motion (RES-334-2019) declaring a Climate Crisis. Since that time we have hired a full time climate specialist, and initiated many other climate initiatives.

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 - This term, Collingwood Council has initiated an Official Plan update, a Land Use Planning Study in order to make sure that we are using our lands in the best way possible for the future.

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 - I am not on the County Council, and am not well versed on this topic.

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

ANSWER

Love, community, facts. It would be easy to say housing, infrastructure, climate, taxes, etc, but none of those can be successfully dealt with, unless we do it based on factual information; with the input and support from the community; and by treating each other with love and respect, even when we disagree.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.