



www.aware-simcoe.ca

2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Steve Johns..... Collingwood.....

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

These are indeed key priorities.

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, as a matter of principle.

While zoning or other regulatory restrictions around development immediately come to mind in this regard, conditions of justifiable development proposals and ultimate approvals should include:

- Installation of infrastructure with minimal disturbances to vegetation and organic cover, the flow damage pattern of the area, ground slope, etc.

- Construction of flow structures to alter fluctuations which will enhance quality of life for fish and other wildlife habitat
- Water quality and quantity risk mitigation measures
- Managed solutions for wetlands

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?

Not applicable – outside of my jurisdiction

ANSWER

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

This requires continued examination and stakeholder consultation focused on reconciling the environmental merits of Greenbelt expansion and the urgent need for sustainable development focused notably on addressing the affordable and attainable housing crisis.

ANSWER

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

I will be looking to learn more about and otherwise advocate for the following:

- Green buildings – construction and retrofit of energy efficient public and private buildings
- Street light retrofit – converting street lights to high-pressure sodium vapour
- Energy systems – acquisition of renewable energy
- Healthy transportation – promotion of the environmental and health benefits of walking, biking, public transportation versus personal vehicle
- Fuelling all public transit buses with an alternative fuel mix
- Sustainable water management – i.e. capturing water for re-use
- Continued commitment to reducing GHG emissions through meeting and ideally exceeding realistically aggressive goals and timeframes

- Ongoing promotion and community education around climate change mitigation benefits and ROI

ANSWER

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?

We need to look at moving to smaller built forms, mixed-use integrated housing and other construction accommodated on a smaller footprint which can also be more efficiently and sustainably serviced.

ANSWER

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?

While it is my understanding that the soil characteristics and agricultural potential of this property were limited, I agree as a matter of course that a suitable property zoned Industrial would be a much more appropriate site option for a waste handling facility.

ANSWER

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

ANSWER

While these are not in any particular order, they are as follow

- Affordable and attainable housing – need strategic, innovative and collaborative action.
- Sustainable preservation and enhancement of key assets including core and green infrastructure, Collingwood's waterfront, the Collingwood Grain Terminals, the trail network, etc., and reliable delivery of essential municipal services and amenities.

- A responsible, comprehensive, innovative and sustainable development strategy that recognizes current and future needs and demographics in a manner that also supports and bolsters Collingwood’s strength, character, heritage and economic and job creation capacity.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.