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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Steve Saltsman

Tiny

Sept. 10, 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, While in Tiny the County’s Official Plan has designated us as Natural Heritage System restricting future development to settlement areas which will prevent further shoreline development, it is incumbent upon local officials to remain vigilant in defending those County Guidelines. Recent local uproar regarding a proposed MZO is a prime example of where local government needs to step in and aggressively oppose such tactics.

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 - As mentioned in the previous response, Simcoe County’s Official Plan has already put in place blanket protections for much of our local ecological health with the exception of one area that will be addressed below. I do think that locally we need to address usage and overcrowding of our shoreline. The last two years have seen a significant increase in swimming advisories and it needs to be studied and understood how and why this is occurring.

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 . Corporate development of the French's Hill area must be vigorously opposed. The inexplicable decision of the current Tiny Council to drop its objections to this development must be reversed. Again, while the municipality has limited control over the issuing of permits and licences, as already mentioned at a minimum the Township should be firm and vocal in its opposition to the project and should be placing pressure on all levels of government to place a moratorium on production/expansion until the science is complete.

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

ANSWER – Broken record here. We essentially are Simcoe County's Green Belt in Tiny however similar protections and safeguards should be expanded into central Ontario such as the Oro-Medonte Moraine, as major population centres like Barrie, Orillia and Collingwood begin to encroach and threaten the unique landscapes and features of Georgian Bay and Muskoka. Urban sprawl and highway expansion present a future challenge to planners and communities who look to improve local prosperity while being mindful of the environment impacts.

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

ANSWER - I Think that locally, the promotion of national and international events and programs should be promoted to maintain resident awareness and policy should as well be formulated keeping the municipalities Climate Action Plan in mind. That action plan apparently also needs revision as Tiny's full time population has already achieved 2032 projections, a full decade ahead of expectations.

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 – Broken record here. Once again, the County of Simcoe’s Official Plan has put the measures in place to avert development as described in Tiny. It is again the responsibility of local government to ensure responsible stewardship of that upper tier policy, emulate it and ensure that it is adhered to at all times.

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 understand along with many, that such a facility is not only required, but is a welcome cutting edge approach in dealing with our waste. However, it is concerning that the County has chosen this particular site. It is not the first time that Simcoe has “levelled” a managed forest as not too far back they did the same thing in locating their new County Public Works yard in Orr Lake. I am assuming that the choice may have been simply dictated by economics as the cost to acquire the amount of industrial land that is required for the facility, would have been exceedingly expensive. Perhaps considering that they may have been in a no-win situation regardless of where they decided to locate, the County simply chose to draw from its existing land inventory perhaps in the belief that the tract is so large, slicing a small portion of it off was the lesser of multiple possible evils. I would like to know if any abandoned or undistinguished (scrub, poor soil, old gravel pit, etc) was ever sought or examined.

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

ANSWER

1. Short Term Rental/ affordable housing crisis in Tiny
2. French’s Hill Strategy
3. Beach ownership/ access issues within Township

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.