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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<u>Candidate Name:</u>	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Thom Paterson</u>	Township of <u>Clearview</u>	<u>2022-09-15</u>

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. I have taken positions in support of these issues at Council and will continue to do so if re-elected.

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

I strongly support the need for a comprehensive approach to ensuring the protection and sustainability of our source water supply, wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI), as well as the preservation of our farmland and our infrastructure. A Clearview climate action plan should clearly identify our specific actionable items that, in collaboration with our neighbouring communities that share our watershed, ensures that our watershed remains resilient to the extremes of our changing climate and the pressures of urban and industrial growth.

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

As this development may have a long-term impact on our source water supply, I support measures that protect this groundwater reserve for future generations.

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

ANSWER

I think the blueprint outlined in the report *Expanding Ontario's Greenbelt: Getting It Right* provides five reasonable principles to follow, especially as it seeks to protect our source water and ensure climate resilience while acknowledging the need to build complete communities.

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

ANSWER

Upgrades to our roads, bridges and drainage infrastructure need to be funded to hardened them against the extremes of climate change to prevent flooding. Our aging urban tree canopy needs to be renewed to help moderate rising heating/cooling costs, reduce air pollution and promote biodiversity.

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

Promote local economic growth and job creation through expanded agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversification in prime agricultural areas. Direct non-farm related industry outside the urban area to rural lands. Review and amend restrictive zoning policies that discourage agri-business growth such those related to farm consolidations.

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

While I understand some of the benefits of the site choice, agricultural lands should be preserved and a rural lands site selected.

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

ANSWER

1. Modernization of our urban and rural infrastructure as protection against unprecedented weather related flooding and property damage
2. Sustainable climate action plan, defined, prioritized and funded
3. Safety on our local roads for all farm, resident and business users

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.