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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Tom Gardzinski

Midland

August 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. I do agree, in part. In general, Canada has become too reliant on other nations for their food supply, and there is no exception to Midland’s food supply. We should be doing all we can to preserve area farmland and put a halt to any developments that occur on existing farmland. Additionally, any responsible developments that occur should set aside a portion of land for neighbourhood garden plots.

Protection, and access to water resources is also important to the residents of Midland. The protection of shoreline and the lands on Georgian Bay should not be developed and should remain accessible to the public.

Regarding accountability in government decision, although I can’t take credit for this statement, I believe it to be 100% true. the statement I wish to share is the fact that when governments have to be held accountable, it is too late. Governments must be responsible. If governments are responsible, there is no need to hold the government accountable. I will be a responsible decision maker.

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, I do. Achieving this can be done through ensuring development plans are done so sustainably, and areas that require protection are protected. If that means creating new or revising existing bylaws then so be it.

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. I can help be an advocate for this project, and others within the jurisdiction of the Town of Midland. I am however, unsure how a councillor in Midland can directly impact this project.

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

ANSWER. Any expansion into the Greenbelt of Simcoe County needs to be done so following all protocols and environmental assessments. Adopting a more creative housing strategy will help reduce the need for developing any greenbelt areas. Creative strategies like a Tiny Home community, supporting in-law suites, and supporting land use policies that may allow additional living structures.

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

ANSWER. I vow to continue to develop transit networks in our region and continue to improve the active transportation infrastructure of our Town. Adopting a more creative housing strategy as mentioned in question #4 above will also help reduce any sprawl and avoid the need to develop greenbelt areas.

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. One of the keys to avoiding sprawl is to intensify the current residential zones. I vow to adopt creative housing strategies like a Tiny Home community, supporting in-law suites, and supporting land use policies that may allow additional living structures.

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. My view is that we need to adopt more circular economy practices to reduce the need for expanding waste handling facilities.

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

ANSWER

1. Implementing a creative, yet fair downtown parking program
2. Supporting creative housing strategies
3. Vow to keep the Midland Bay Lands waterfront and shoreline remain accessible to the public.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.