



2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Whitney Smith

Orillia, Ward 1

9/3/2022

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?

1. ANSWER: Yes, these are very important objectives.

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?

1. ANSWER: Yes, these are very important objectives. I would have to review each file on a case-by-case basis to determine what is best for my municipality.

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?

1. **ANSWER:** I have no knowledge of French's Hill, but invite you to send me more information so I can learn what needs to be done to protect this resource.

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

1. **ANSWER:** I would like to learn more about the Greenbelt and what I can do to best serve the constituents of my community.

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

1. **ANSWER:** Like everyone, I am concerned about climate change and am a big proponent of reducing, reusing and recycling.

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?

1. **ANSWER:** I am interested in learning more about urban sprawl and what can be done to protect our farmlands.

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?

1. **ANSWER:** I would have to know more about this file to comment definitively. But I am always concerned to hear about facilities being installed on lands they are not zoned for and I will listen to constituent objections for any matters that come before me.

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

ANSWER:

1. 1.) I will work with the current council as well as new council members to see effective and necessary change.
2. 2.) I will work in unity on making decisions together that benefit Orillia's future.

3. 3). I will stand for community support and continue to make this a city with exciting opportunities and activities.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.