

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION

SEPT. 16, 2018

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

ELAINE CAPES – FOR DEPUTY MAYOR

1. Why are you running for office? What vision for our community drives your participation in municipal politics? What do you think you can contribute to our municipality?

I am running because I have a vested interest in planning, preserving and promoting the place that we choose to live and call our forever home - because Mono Matters.

I bring my passion for people and place along with knowledge and experience to effectively plan, preserve and promote what we treasure most about Mono for now and for future generations.

2. Do you subscribe to the theory that increased residential development will reduce the tax burden on residents, and if so what would you do to encourage such development in our community? What about other types of development: industrial, commercial, etc.?

It has been demonstrated that this is not the case – that bigger is not always better. Once the developers are gone and the responsibly turns over the municipality, the costs for servicing these new neighbourhoods generally increase. We have satisfied the Provincial growth targets and therefore no more large-scale developments are needed in Mono. Individual builds on currently zoned lots will provide the right development going forward. We still have available commercially zoned lands for the right developments – those that are environmentally friendly and economically beneficial to our Town.

3. What would be your approach to maintaining municipal services while keeping taxes stable? –

We have an asset management plan, and business and budget planning that needs to support services while being efficient and effective with tax dollars. As a council we'll need to establish priorities to inform council's policy and decision-making. Priorities that will be shared with citizens, priorities that will be tracked and include a performance report back to our constituents.

4. Aggregate mining is a major industry in Dufferin County, including in our communities. How would you propose to limit the expansion of aggregate mining?

With the establishment of appropriate zoning and land use policy and bylaws, in addition to the commitment to hold fast to our Municipal OP, we need to defend our plans and push back against agents and the Province. Maintaining our autonomy, our landscape assets, and our community health and wellbeing will serve Mono well for the current and future residents.

5. We live in “Headwaters” communities and ground water is our most important resource. What steps do you feel the council should take to ensure the protection of our water?

One disappointment I have is about the change that was made to the “Welcome to Mono” signs lining our borders. These signs once included, “Home of the Headwaters - the Credit, Humber, and the Nottawasaga”. If we do not remind people of where their water comes from they soon forget to value it. In my earlier term on council I suggested we pay tribute to all the water crossings we have, reminding us of the rivers we travel over and how important they are. Many other areas do this - I stand by this idea as an important effort for educating those who drive through Mono in addition to citizens of Mono; promoting education about water sources and the threats they face are the key to safeguarding water.

6. What are your plans to manage the ongoing problem of noise pollution in our community?

During my term on council I worked on the Mono noise bylaw – at that time, no change was made at the call of the Mayor, and since that time nothing further has been done – when elected, I will put this back on the agenda for resolution along with a plan for action and enforcement.

7. The dumping of contaminated landfill is an increasingly serious problem for our area. What will be your approach to addressing the fill dumping issue?

We need strong bylaws with teeth that we can enforce, and we need a watch system in place for citizens to report suspected fill violations.

8. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement and participation in council business? How can the council improve transparency? Will you support continuing with regularly scheduled town hall meetings? Do you support the creation of and full support for effective council committees (eg: clear mandates, regular reports to and interaction with council, etc.)? What other forums for transparency and citizen involvement do you foresee?

Change will only occur if we evolve to using a **different approach** - We need to take an entrepreneurial approach to governing in addition to administrative management; we need to open up regular agendas for conversations with citizens about Mono's future. We need to utilize technology and not just perpetuate the "in Town office" meeting format. We need to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in a way that works for them. Council needs to: listen to our residents, to hear issues, opinions and what really matters to the people. Council needs to work to improve awareness about what's happening in Mono, to make sure everyone is informed about what is impacting the Town, and what action is being taken on those issues.

9. Our communities have Codes of Conduct, which aim to ensure dignity and respect for participants in the municipal government process. What do you feel could be done to improve the current Code of Conduct?

A review of this along with the procedural bylaw is one of the first orders of business to begin the new council term.

10. For Mayor and Deputy Mayor candidates: you will be our representative on County Council. Will your actions on County Council be directed by the instructions of your local council? What will you do when county needs and priorities conflict with your municipality?

As a member of the County Council, the first order of duty is to the County and County business, which includes services handled on behalf of all member municipalities. Notwithstanding this, I would bring forward to the conversation any and all potential impacts to Mono, relating to decisions being taken at the County, as well as listen to other members bringing forth their perspective. I feel it is the duty of all representatives to enlighten County conversations with information related to each municipality. This is crucial in order to have the fully informed conversation, and to make the best possible decisions for the whole with consideration for the impact on individual municipalities - there needs to be balance.