

Sharon Martin – Candidate for Mono Council

- #1) My interest in local politics has been long standing. Since we moved from Mono Mills to Mono 34 years ago I have attended council meetings regularly and spent years on committees of council. Having had the opportunity to be at the council table I feel I have now had a four-year education in municipal affairs. Being a team player is also an asset. During the last four years I have built positive relationships with leaders in surrounding townships, towns and at the county level. I know I can continue to give all my attention to matters before council and representing the citizens of Mono whatever their issues. My hopes for Mono are that we can continue to be a welcoming community and still maintain and be proud of our history.

My vision for Mono would be for a safe and secure place for all ages. We can build on the community that is well established here and still be inclusive of people moving here and find opportunities to bring all people together. We should encourage business suitable to a rural town to establish here. That of course means we need to keep looking for the solution to Mono's internet access problem. Mono can and should provide recreational opportunities for all ages.

- 2) Mono really has only one development pending and I agree it should be built as soon as all requirements have been met. Mono has fulfilled the "Places to Grow" mandate. With building of residential areas come costs for water, sewage, waste, road maintenance and more! We have the best tax rate in Dufferin County so do we need to be better than best? Mono has at least three businesses coming to the Highway #10 corridor. Tourism in the whole of the Headwaters communities is taking off and we need to be part of that industry. The next four years will be very interesting!
- 3) Mono is in a great financial position due to forward thinking. The policy of paying it forward for decades means that if a major expense arises it can be handled by reserves and taxes are not affected. Every effort is made during budget negotiations to keep taxes in line with what is happening in the rest of the county. Municipal services are top priority, however; without tax increases Mono could not provide the service level we take for granted.
- 4) At the moment Mono is standing with our citizens against a huge aggregate mine in the north of our town. I am proud of our position on this issue and want to continue. This mine would also be a problem for people just passing through on hwy. 89. The 3rd line access will be a murderous intersection. We should continue to lobby the province until they listen and continue to support community groups that are doing this work as well.

- 5) At this time I have been told that there is a water quantity threat at the Cardinal Woods well. Perhaps it is time to talk about being more conserving in our approach to water usage in our homes and businesses. Council could promote better practices and take our concerns to the county to ensure that the building code promotes better water saving devices. From everything I have read about water conservation this is going to become an ever increasing problem. We need to be mindful of any development that encroaches on water recharge areas. Development in areas surrounding Mono can and will put pressure on the aquifer which means we need to be able to comment on any new development.
- 6) This has been an ongoing problem in Mono. Calls occasionally come in because of events at Island Lake and the OAC. The noise bylaw is under review at the moment. I will assume there will be consultation with residents. I will also assume there will be a strong message for any unwarranted noise as well as consideration for events that happen periodically in the town.
- 7) We need some way of policing the random dumping of soil. Most people who see a dump truck assume it is just doing a job. It could be that education and citizen hot line could head off any unwanted dumping. Build a reputation for close monitoring of dumping practices and we need a strong bylaw that checks all the boxes. There will undoubtedly be more and more pressure to accept soil from the ever-expanding GTA.
- 8) In my opinion Mono does a good job in providing access to information about what is happening at council meetings and in the town. Not very many people attend council meeting morning or evening. What does that suggest? Mono provides "Council Highlights" which citizens sign up to receive shortly after council meetings. Mono is on Facebook and twitter. Tax bills and a "Newsletter" with current information are sent out regularly. The Mono website is continually being updated. There is always room for improvement. I have attended other local council meetings and most do not have a question period and never ask someone in the gallery for an opinion. Mono is very open and never missuses the closed option. All committees of council are open to all with agendas and minutes posted on the website. Mono is transparent. I have been an advocate for Town Hall Meetings from the beginning. Ideas and project information exchanged can only make our town better. Soon a call will go out to invite people in Mono to apply through the "Citizen's Resource Registry" to become involved on one of many Mono committees.
- 9) Respect is evident in the Mono Council Chambers. And that is seen among the councilors and towards staff and anyone who comes to present at question period or as a delegation. Abuse of persons behind the desks or in the gallery should never be tolerated.