

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION
SEPT. 16, 2018
QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

KEN CUFARO – CANDIDATE FOR MULMUR COUNCIL

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 for office because I believe I can contribute to Mulmur, by giving my time, my energy and utilizing my previous 40 years of experience as a public servant, for the well-being of the community.

This is not a part-time job. This is not a hobby. You have to be dedicated and committed to the position of Councillor. My heart is into this work, and I am dedicated and committed for the benefit of our unique community, known as Mulmur Township.

My vision for Mulmur is to retain and protect Mulmur's unique agricultural and rural character, while at the same time recognizing the importance of sustainable growth within the residential and business sectors of the municipality.

I can contribute skills I have learned over the past 40 years as a public servant, in law enforcement, as a manager of two municipal building departments, as an agent of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

I have dealt with many people and personalities and have the necessary tools in dealing with tough decisions. I have compassion, empathy and the ability to listen. I have investigative skills and common sense when making decisions.

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.?*

I do subscribe to the theory that increased residential development will reduce the tax burden on residents.

This residential development should be within the hamlet areas, but only when the surrounding natural, agricultural and environmental areas are not impacted by this growth.

I believe the developers should foot the bill for the environmental impact studies and the costs of the infrastructure such as roads, lighting, storm water management, potable water supply and centralized septic systems.

I believe we should encourage growth of home occupations and home industry within the parameters of the zoning specifications as to their size and low impact on their surrounding neighbours.

Larger industrial and commercial enterprises need to develop within the commercial/ industrial zoned areas of the municipality.

I propose we look into incentives to attract businesses to these areas.

3. *What would be your approach to maintaining municipal services while keeping taxes stable? Municipal services are the backbone of the municipality.*

Financial resources, human resources, and assets used by Mulmur must be able to deliver services to our residents and ratepayers.

Our ratepayers depend on;

- Municipal roads and storm water drainage.
- Garbage collection and refuse removal.
- Potable water supply.
- Fire Protection.
- Emergency health services.
- Police protection
- Street lighting.
- Municipal parks and recreation.
- Economic development.
- Countywide planning and the environment.
- Libraries.

I believe our priorities are to ensure these services are provided foremost before any other budgetary matter. We must find ways to reduce the cost for said services. For example:

- I propose we employ Special Constables to enforce our Community Safety Zones and Highways. This would save a substantial amount of money from our budget for this service now being provided by the OPP.
- Cooperatives can be formed with other municipalities when purchasing equipment and materials, to ensure the suppliers will discount their supply costs.

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?*

An alliance with other neighbouring municipalities must be formed to confront this issue, not only in our municipality but with other municipalities in the alliance group to pressure the provincial government to stop said development.

We must support the citizen groups that are involved in limiting this expansion.

There is strength in numbers.

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?*

Support to our many citizen groups is essential. Municipal committees should be formed to plan and prepare for any possible disruption to our water supply while utilizing the knowledge and strength of the citizen groups that have been engaged in this protection.

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

There are laws in place right now under the Highway Traffic Act as it relates to noise from vehicles. By-laws specific to noise control must be updated and enforced. The hiring of Special Constables to enforce vehicular noise and other sources of noise should be implemented. There would be a cost savings to do this and a higher amount of enforcement to what we have now.

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?*

A review and updating of our by-laws are essential. We must ensure any fill material is tested and certified not to be contaminated, at the expense of the property owner and not the municipality.

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?*

Citizen engagement is essential to a healthy and prosperous community. We must support the existing citizen groups, and encourage members of council and ratepayers to get involved with these organizations.

I do support the regulatory scheduled town hall meetings. I also believe we need to find ways to attract more citizens to these meetings.

Effective council committees are the backbone to governance. Council cannot do everything on its own. Committees are essential tools to assist council in making informed decisions.

With modern technology of today, all council meetings and committee meetings should be broadcast via YouTube Live Stream or through other services. Of course not everyone in the municipality has access to high speed internet to view this live streaming. Priority should be given to ensure everyone in our community will have this essential service available as soon as possible.

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?*

The current code of conduct must be reviewed and updated. I believe there should be more “meat” in the code of conduct and it should be specific and not a boiler plate version.