

DIANE WALMSLEY CANDIDATE FOR MONO COUNCIL

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

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 council to be your advocate, to ensure your voice is heard, and to dig in and get things done. I want to preserve the beauty and character of Mono while pressing for necessary improvement and moving us forward. Do we have safe traffic design? High speed internet? Are our aquifers in danger? Do we have a healthy, proactive dialogue with the provincial government? Are enough of us engaged?

My vision is a healthy, engaged and thoughtfully managed Mono. I will push to make our streets safer, our internet faster, and our level of engagement higher. I want to discuss issues with you - not only during the campaign, but throughout my term, because I believe operating in a vacuum benefits no one.

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.?

No, I do not. I believe many residents moved to Mono because of its natural beauty -because it is out of the city, and certainly not because it *is* a city. I intend to respect that. I believe sensible management can prevent burdensome taxes increases without the need for development.

I also intend to respect the fact that as part of the headwaters, we have a responsibility that extends beyond ourselves, and promoting development is not analogous with that.

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

We have the lowest tax rate in the county, which is a great place to start. I don't believe tax increases have surpassed the rate of inflation, which is good, but I want to ensure we are not raising taxes simply because it has become the status quo. Our budget process must be resident-friendly and transparent, and our taxes rates and spending, defensible and easily explained.

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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?

A healthy relationship with the provincial government is essential in this.

The current Aggregate Resources Act is favourable to aggregate companies, and less so to Municipalities, so support at the provincial level is key. That being said, I believe there are ways we could help prevent future development, such as making permits for aggregate operations cost prohibitive. Also, ensuring royalty extraction fees collected from existing operations are routed toward prevention of future operations could be beneficial.

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?

Mono has been very active in identifying and monitoring our most important resource. We must continue the work we have been doing, but I feel one element we are lacking is the authority to protect our water from influences, such as aggregate operations, for instance. We were successful in the case of the Craig Pit, and we continue to fight the Greenwood proposal – but the fact that it is a fight at all is a problem. When our water is endangered – when there is a proposed mining operation on top of a highly vulnerable aquifer – there should be no question, no fight, no back and forth. We should have the authority to say, “If it negatively impacts the water table, it’s a hard no.” Again, this requires proactive dialogue with provincial counterparts and environmental agencies, and truthfully, I’m not sure if it would even be possible – but that in no way implies that I wouldn’t do everything in my power to make it possible.

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

An effective and enforceable noise bylaw would be a great place to start. There is no need to reinvent the wheel: several Canadian cities have effective noise bylaws. Considering the amount of complaints I have heard about noise (my own included), it is shocking to me that we have a noise bylaw that hasn’t really resulted in charges. We very clearly have a problem. I believe we need to identify where we have gone wrong, and correct it as quickly as possible.

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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?

This matter boils down to the increasingly common themes of enforcement and authority over our own municipality. Our fill bylaw clearly states that contaminated fill is prohibited - and this bylaw is currently being strengthened. We must have the authority to dictate that contaminated fill is not allowed on our lands, be it somehow a normal farm practice or not. I would like to ensure the revised bylaw is enforceable, and that we have the resources in place to enforce it.

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?

I believe updated approaches online would be a very beneficial place to start. Again, we don't need to reinvent the wheel - many cities have engaged citizens and we can look to them for examples. A recent suggestion for council to improve transparency is to have "travelling" council meetings throughout Mono. This has been done in the past, and attendance was good. I think it's a great idea. I would like to see citizens involved in all council matters, including the budget process.

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 complaints and potentially a review of the code itself would allow us to address concerns and ensure participants could engage in the process in a meaningful and respectful way.