

JANET HORNER – CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF MULMUR

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 because it has been a privilege to serve Mulmur for the last 4 years and I know that I have a lot more to offer to Mulmur and the County of Dufferin. My vision for the future of Mulmur includes:

- Enhanced wireless phone and high-speed internet service
- High-Quality municipal services – good roads and bridges, strong customer service, with taxes that won't break the bank
- Engaging our residents to participate in shaping our future
- Controlled development at Primrose Business Park and Mansfield
- A new vision for a community hub in Honeywood
- Protection of our natural assets while guarding against 'overreach' by provincial or county levels of government.

I am a skilled leader, with a deep working knowledge of land use issues and provincial government. I have an extensive track record of public service.

In addition, during a successful term as your councilor, I am participated in several committees and boards including:

- Shelburne and District Fire Department
- Mulmur/Canada 150 (Chair)
- Mulmur Economic Development
- Shelburne Library
- Shelburne Police Services
- Annual Mulmur Day Event (Chair)
- Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (Executive Director)
- Niagara Escarpment Commission (Dufferin County Commissioner)

I am excited about our future and now I will make a difference as your Mayor!

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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 not believe that residential development pays for itself. I Do believe that some of the municipalities around us are caught up in the “hamster wheel” of attracting the development to pay for the next development – This Is Not Sustainable!

What would offset the tax burden on residents is: appropriate commercial development, in the appropriate places (ie. Primrose Industrial Park)

Mulmur should not be chasing smokestacks; but we should attract low impact commercial development to our Park and home based businesses.

Additionally, I would like Mulmur to investigate affordable housing opportunities that will help our seniors “age in place” in their home.

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

Right now, Mulmur’s portion of the taxes has actually declined due to some careful budgetary planning. I do not believe that we should never increase taxes but we need to balance wants and needs of our community carefully. We must keep our infrastructure, roads and bridges maintained and our equipment in current and safe condition; while continuing to service our residents in a timely manner. As your Mayor, I will submit a business case to: Build economies of scale on shared services; partnering with neighbouring municipalities.

I will keep a careful eye on the County expenditure to ensure that Mulmur is getting value for money with services like garbage removal, building department, County road departments.

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?

As we know, the Provincial Aggregate Act is one of the strongest pieces of legislation in the province. It’s power extends beyond any municipal authority.

We have to understand that Mulmur is both a user and an owner of gravel. At the current rate of useage, Mulmur will need to find a new source of gravel in 15-20 years. We cannot honestly say that we do not believe in gravel pits.

Gravel pits come with increased road traffic, heavy trucks and safety issues. The best a municipality can do is to ensure that gravel pits are located appropriately, undergo

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extensive study to ensure that the water table is protected, reduce the impact on prime agricultural lands and keep our roadways safe.

Mulmur, Mono and Melancthon have a history of citizen involvement in advocacy for gravel pits and quarries. We must not stand in the way of that advocacy but at the same time cannot spend large amounts of taxpayer money on legal defenses.

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?

As Guardians Of The Headwaters, it is important that we work closely with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority; to ensure our water remains clean and healthy.

As the effects of climate change becomes more evident, warming of streams is a serious issue in our region. This will result in increased toxins in the waterways, reduced fish supply and disruption our streams’ ecosystems.

Through our active support and participation in NVCA, we will design strategies to keep our water cool. These strategies will: increasing vegetative cover for the streams, protecting wetlands and monitoring the watershed.

In addition, we must be aware and encourage land stewardship; that minimizes agricultural runoff, chemical and fertilizer application on lawns and sewage systems that are in good working order.

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

After years of inactivity on this issue, this term, our council took a strong stand on noise and speed issues in Mulmur. Led by Councillor Lloyd, in conjunction with the OPP and residents, data has been gathered throughout the township and a strategy has been designed to reduce the speed and reduce related noise emissions.

Community safety zones, rumble strips, speed reduction signage and increased law enforcement presence has made a positive impact in our communities.

I believe that there is so much more to be done. I see opportunities to implement traffic calming measures and enforcement programs that will dramatically reduce speed and noise. In addition, I would empower local resident advocacy groups which will impact police services and visitors travelling through our township.

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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?

Under the Municipal Act, Mulmur is given the power to regulate the importation of fill to properties in the Township. Mulmur's fill bylaw was strengthened this term due to the increasing issue of fill dumping. This upcoming council must ensure that the fill brought into Mulmur is:

- proper permits – NEC, NVCA and township
- clean and inspected with origin verified
- deposits collected
- appropriate locations
- Maintain controls and enforcement for illegal fill

We are sharing best practices from Mono township. We will fight illegal dumping and prevent illegal importation of fill to Mulmur.

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 feel proud that we have 20 MORE residents serving on council committees this term. There are still several gaps that we need to fill and I will focus on those opportunities and encourage more participation. I believe in Town Hall meetings, a quarterly newsletter and council highlights on our Website would help keep council open and transparent. We need to do a better job communicating and we will.

I will recommend changing our antiquated "meetings procedural" bylaw; allowing participation in our committees via conference call when necessary.

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?

I believe that Codes of Conduct are integral and a living document that we need to embrace ongoing. Successful organizations make this part of their company DNA; we need to simplify and empower.

Mulmur is steeped in strong values and respect for people and our environment.

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I would work with the team to condense our multi (8) page Code of Conduct into 3 to 4 key themes that capture the spirit of Mulmur's values and respect for people and our environment.

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 Mayor, I must represent Mulmur. I will be transparent. My responsibilities at County are first to Mulmur; be assured your voice will be heard. It is important that we take every opportunity to remind the rest of County Council of Mulmur's interests. I will vote with the instructions of my Council.