



Town of The Blue Mountains Election - 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

- A. Before we begin with our priorities, please tell us why you are running, what your priorities will be if elected, and finally, why BMVA members should vote for you?** I am running because, like over 90+% of the people who reside or play here, I love where I live, and I want to preserve what we have for future generations.

My priorities are representing the people who elect me. I believe that I am accountable to them so I want to listen hard to them to make sure that I accurately reflect their collective views. Issues to which I will be dedicating myself include the preservation of our natural assets, careful development and attainable housing.

BMVA members should vote for me because I am dedicated to protecting the future of our beautiful region and that I will not stop moving forward on their behalf until the job is done.

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- B. Have you worked with BMVA in the past and do you believe we add value to residents, businesses and government?**

Yes, I do think that the BMVA provides critical value to its residents, businesses, and government and I would like to heartily support it in its mission.

I have worked with Andrew on EDAC and have very much enjoyed hearing of the amazing programs and initiatives that the Village has launched. I am particularly excited about BMFF, the film festival.

As chair of the Official Plan Steering Committee, it was my pleasure to work with Andrew to host a meeting with the BMVA members recently. I was impressed with the strong attendance at the meeting as well as the range of interests that the BMVA represents. I am pleased to continue to keep in touch with the members and the BMVA.

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C. Did the outgoing council implement any changes/ bylaws /policies that you hope to reverse or change?

In general, I am very pleased with the inroads that the 2018-2022 council was able to make. From raising the bar with the delivery of a solid communications programs to moving forward on complex infrastructure projects, I feel that this council did excellent work.

What would I change? The Town's delivery record on attainable housing.

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Economic Recovery & Development

BMVA supports continued growth and diversification of our local economy to assist businesses, municipalities and social agencies to meet the service needs of local residents and visitors. Predictable and equitable tax rates, employment lands development, key infrastructure improvements and innovative partnerships between private, public and social agencies are needed. The local economy will be in recovery and rebuilding mode over the full course of the next municipal term of office. All sectors of the economy will require time and support to rebuild; now is not the time to implement new taxes, increase costs to do business or to over-regulate.

D. Do you support the above statement?

I do support this statement with one caveat. It may become necessary to increase taxes (hopefully at a modest level) to address attainable housing initiatives. We are at a crisis point with this file and the federal, provincial and county governments are not forthcoming. We may be on our own for a while and we will need creativity and, maybe funding, to move forward.

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E. Will you continue to collaborate with and support BMVA's DMO/Tourism role as well as our arts, culture and sports programming?

Oh, yes! As mentioned earlier I am a keen enthusiast of the BMFF and any other like initiatives that bring tourists to our beautiful Town.

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F. Will you commit to not increasing taxes or implementing new taxes?

I will do my best to not increase taxes except for aiding those in need of attainable housing. I would consider innovative new taxes that do not affect our residents and businesses.

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Local Labour Market Development

Our local labour market is insufficient to meet the needs of businesses, municipalities, social agencies and consumers across the region. This is the result of population growth by demographics that do not participate in the local employment market, the size of Canada's workforce approaching retirement, high cost of living, out-migration of local youth, low local immigration settlement and more. The Town of The Blue Mountains needs to strengthen the local labour market by stimulating local infrastructure investments in: attainable and workforce housing, regional public transportation, local post-secondary programs, supports to welcome new Canadians and their families, childcare, productive relationships with upper- and lower-tier regional municipalities and more.

G. What initiatives would you support to attract and retain workers to the area and will you prioritize this issue?

I would, and do, support any program that would attract and retain workers. Attainable and workforce housing programs would be the first place that I would go, along with the other initiatives mentioned above including regional public transportation solutions, post-secondary programs which focus on the trades, culinary/hotel management and the entertainment industry as well as programs to support our new Canadians. Childcare support is fundamental to young families and needs to be a priority along with solid and productive relationships with upper and lower-tier regional municipalities who will be important resources for the creation and delivery of these programs.

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H. New Canadians often look for unique supports (i.e., places of worship, community centres) when choosing a place to settle. What role do you see for the municipal government to assist in this regard?

I see a role for municipal governments to assist with these unique supports. TOBM would need a stronger infrastructure in this area to be truly helpful.

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Transportation

Getting around South Georgian Bay and the Blue Mountains efficiently and safely has become an issue that urgently needs to be addressed. We believe the following priorities are critical: improved safety measures on local roads, new highway capacity, expanded public transit service, and increased active transportation and trails (particularly in the Craighleith/Village community).

I. Public transit, bike paths, highways and public parking often compete for the same municipal dollars, How will you juggle these competing transportation and transit priorities?

I support the many initiatives offered in the draft Master Transportation Plan that are designed to address these many issues. With this plan in place, the juggling will be managed largely by staff with continued good policy-making by council. For the Craigleith/Village community, I will be encouraging plans be put into place quickly for improved bike path connectivity and more and better green spaces which I know are a concern to the residents. Expanding the regional public transit service is a vital project as well.

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J. What road safety improvements would you prioritize and why?

I will be guided by the draft Master Transportation Plan and input from the BMVA and concerned residents.

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K. What initiatives would you support to increase transportation options for visitors, residents and workers in the area?

Augmented public transportation programs between the Village and Thornbury would be an important option. As mentioned under J, I will be guided by the draft Master Transportation Plan and input from the BMVA and concerned residents.

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L. E-scooters/bikes & electric cars, both privately owned and rental, are more available than ever before, do you support these modes of transportation and will you invest in infrastructure to allow the safe operation of them?

I am a proud owner of an e-bike and I love, love it! I would enthusiastically support any programs that encourage safe e-transportation including bike lockers at strategic locations.

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Housing

The Town of The Blue Mountains lacks attainable home ownership, rental supply and workforce housing options. Numerous strategies have been created over the last decade by industry, local municipalities and our local not-for-profit Attainable Housing Corporation. We do not need to develop more strategic plans. We need changes to our Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw to permit development of a greater range of attainable residential and workforce housing options, as well as balanced and appropriate increases in density and height in the right places. A strengthened partnership between the Town and The Blue Mountains Attainable Housing Corporation can accelerate the right policies and implementation plans.

M. Will you champion the implementation of changes to our official plan and zoning bylaws to expedite the development of attainable and workforce housing? What else do you envision can be done to meet this need?

Yes, I will champion the implementation of appropriate changes to our official plan and zoning by-laws including increasing the range and mix of housing along with programs that encourage secondary and tertiary suites as per Provincial Policy Statements (PPS), These additional dwelling units will need to be regulated to prevent their usage as STA's. I strongly support the concept of negotiating strategic and timely requests of developers to assist with attainable housing solutions as partners of the municipality.

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Sustainability/Whole Communities

BMVA believes that a collaborative approach on key initiatives can make a big difference, including: financial incentives for businesses and residents to implement green technologies and upgrades, increasing electrical vehicle infrastructure, and joint municipal/private sector service delivery to achieve economies of scale (e.g., snow removal, waste, recycling).

Public greenspace, parks, family amenities, waterfront access and trails are lacking in the Craigeith/Blue Mountain Village community. With the recent boom in new residential development (and associated development charge and property tax revenues), residents want a more integrated, safe, green and accessible Craigeith/Blue Mountain Village community.

N. What commitments will you make to the residents of Craigeith and Blue Mountain Village to address these concerns?

I am very sympathetic to the residents of Craigeith and Blue Mountain Village about their need for the above initiatives. I think that the Town needs to do a better job of delivering a more integrated, safe, green and accessible community to the residents, no question. I see this as a pressing issue that I will be leading with during the next council term.

O. Are there any current municipal services you would increase or decrease?

I am happy that the Town will be doing snow removal of sidewalks in Craigeith this year, at the same time, I believe that the Town has a lot of work to do with improving and increasing green space and providing public washrooms in Craigeith/ BM Village. Infrastructure that supports new technologies such as e-bikes is key, sending the clear message that TOBM is "plugged in" (pardon the pun) with the future.