



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 no stranger to the Political arena; I was first elect to the newly amalgamated Town of The Blue Mountains in 1997 as a Councillor, I remained there until 2006. In 2010 I ran again successfully for Councillor, 2014-2018 Deputy Mayor. I am presently the Provincial Appointee to the Blue Mountains OPP Police Service Board.
- I am passionate, experienced, and I have integrity.

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

Yes, I have worked with BMVA in the past and have been supportive of initiatives that Andrew Siegwart has brought to the community, the industry, and Town Council.

Tourism is so important to our community, the support of BMVA Foundation is ongoing for all the events and grants to support these local programs.

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

The Official Plan is not complete, Council will have to make changes, and will have to provide more public engagement i.e.: Let us not do just the minimum three meetings, another municipality did thirty public meetings to get the OP correct. The new Council will be approving this document with critical changes that will reflect the community.

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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?

- **Agree**

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

- **Yes**

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

Council tries extremely hard to not increase taxes. The New Council will need to spend more hours researching why the town is facing a possible 10% tax increase in 2023, Council needs to ask important questions on where the town has been spending the money? Lots of questions to be asked.

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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?

Every town in Ontario is experiencing labour issues. The town's employees are also leaving to join other municipalities for better pay and benefits. Yes, the town needs affordable homes, a transportation system that includes all parts of the Blue Mountains, Co Op programs with all colleges that offer Hospitality training, these individuals would then get the much-needed experience working in their fields.

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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 help in this regard?

- The municipality will continue the work Regionally and locally with non-profit groups who help working with new Canadians who come to live, work, and play in our area.

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 Craigeith/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?

- Funding on County Roads comes from the Grey County. Previously as the Deputy Mayor I sat at Grey County Council and did get dollars back from the County for the roundabout, pathways, and sidewalks. I will help this Council with my experience, and knowledge to continue this work.

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

- Discussions with the residents in the Craigeith area as to where the problem areas lie and then have discussions with the OPP to help improve safety in the area.

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

- The town needs a higher level of service for residents, visitors, and workers. The bus service will need more hours to move people around during peak times, people cannot get to work or back home if the buses are not running.

- **Data collected from the resources will be necessary to understand when the peak hours are and route the buses will be needed the most.**

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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?

- **Yes, I support all forms of transportation. When developers are building the infrastructure they must include dedicated bike lanes, pathways to move people around.**

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?

- **The Official Plan still needs work on attainable housing , secondary suites and tertiary suites, and zoning by-laws. The new Council will have to make positive changes to enable housing for all.**
- **We need BMVA and Blue Mountain Resorts to come to the table to help with new initiatives.**

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 Craighleith/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 Craighleith/Blue Mountain Village community.

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

The town needs to deliver more integrated, safe, green and a accessible community to all residents in the town. All residents deserve to live with these incentives. The new Council will have a lot to think about and where they start.

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

The landfill could be open further hours to accommodate weekenders, the snow removal of sidewalks in Craigleith is a good thing.

If elected I will look to a service delivery review so Council can understand what services, the town will need or not.