



## 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 for Mayor for I believe my knowledge and experience will be an asset to the community. My main priority will be to ensure our core municipal services are well managed and funded. The OP review, environmental protections, Campus of Care and housing are also top items. BMVA members should vote for me because I have a proven record in local government, local business, and community involvement on many levels since 1978. I know the people, issues, and personalities that are in play.*

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

*Yes/yes (easy one)*

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

*In my opinion it is important that Council/Mayor support all council decisions once made. One may not agree, but we vote and decide as a group and that decision must be supported by all to ensure good government. Should any decisions need sober second thought I will be prepared to look anew at any issues with an open mind. Having said that; there are no changes/bylaws/policies that I plan to change coming in. I want to be forward looking and get things done, I have no personal agenda.*

### **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?**

*Not entirely. Most is generalized outlook. Specifically the last line seems like what you are asking. In general I agree that “now is not the time for new taxes, increase costs, or over regulation” .... However .... Most is out of our control. If the federal government or provincial government or even County want to impose new taxes (carbon, hotel, environmental etc.) we have no choice but to comply and collect. I will not be looking to add new taxes/regulations or costs to our ratepayers on the municipal level. During my 8 years on Council our increases were 1 – 2 % yearly. You can expect much the same if I am elected Mayor.*

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

*Yes, I will support but not necessarily fund.*

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

*Sorry, can’t commit to that. Municipalities are the only level of government that are required to balance their budget for the current year of operations. This means we have to collect enough taxes in 2023 to pay for all current expenses in that year, including interest on debt payments. Capital expenditures are treated separately. The landscape can change dramatically and if our expenses are going to be xxx, we need to fiscally raise xxx, and this could lead to tax increases. My record speaks to the restraint we showed from 2010 – 2018. I don’t contemplate any new tax initiatives municipally, but as above cannot speak for the Federal or Provincial, or County governments.*

## **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?**

*My priorities are making certain core municipal services are well managed and funded, that we maintain civil interactions with all, that we promote environmental protections and move quickly to develop the 160 long term care beds and multi-use centre within the provisional funding envelope of the provincial government. I will consider supporting any initiatives that make sense. (but not necessarily fund....can’t fund everything and keep taxes low)*

**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 believe our role is to support and fund local outreach groups with societal expertise (like BVO, Blue Mountain Legacy Fund, etc.) to aid with societal issues. My focus will be on core municipal services. Good Parks, Good Pipes, Good Pavement.*

## **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?**

*Highways/County roads are not within our jurisdiction, so no money for them from municipal coffers. I helped initiate the BM – Collingwood bus link, and sat on the Georgian trail committee. I support initiatives that reduce the use of automobiles and am in favour of non resident user pay parking/use for parks. I will juggle carefully.*

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

*I am in favour of lower speeds where appropriate. My priority would be to ensure our roads department is well funded and managed. I have no specific improvements in mind..... however, I have noticed in some Municipalities they have installed what I will call ‘vertical guides’ ... which are lagged into the asphalt and guide the traffic into a narrow path, thus ensuring a slow speed.... Easy, much more effective than speed bumps, come out for the winter (I assume), cheap and flexible. An idea.*

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

*I have supported initiatives in the past and will continue to do so for any ideas that are effective, affordable and make sense. I have no pressing initiatives in mind.*

**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 support these modes of travel and will continue as appropriate. I would have to see what the ‘investment in infrastructure’ would look like before making any commitment.*

## **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, where appropriate. I have personally provided rental housing throughout the region in various projects since 1984. Affordable and attainable. Workforce style dormitories for transient workforce make a lot of sense in theory. Secondary Dwelling Units should help both renters and homeowners as our population ages. Our apple growers have used bunkhouse style housing for their offshore workers for years. What if we could structure a plan to use this housing for transient winter workers... just a thought.*

## **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 Craigleith/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 Craigleith/Blue Mountain Village community.

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

*I agree with this wide ranging and generalized statement, more or less. My commitment to the Craigleith community (and all of the TBM citizens) is to work with the BMVA to address specific needs and prioritize environmental protections, parks, and infrastructure improvements. I have no specifics at this point but my platform slogan has always been ... Good Parks, Good Pipes, Good Pavement.*

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

*This is an issue to be addressed during budget deliberations. Services provided by the Town are certainly dependent upon funding and that needs to be balanced with the fiscal income. Core services are mandated, we must provide them by statute, however increasing or decreasing the levels may be appropriate.*