

Joe Feiner

Councillor Candidate in the Town of New Tecumseth, Ward 7
Simcoe Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: Yes, housing is a fundamental human right and in my opinion affordable housing needs to be directly addressed in The Town of New Tecumseth. For example implementing policies supporting alternative and more economical home options including tiny homes and high rise dwellings. Building neighbourhoods, consisting of these options, close to existing amenities, transportation, and employment opportunities with some of the required infrastructure already in place would contribute to lower costs and and support the needs of the community. Additionally, lower floors of high rise buildings could accommodate handicapped individuals and seniors.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: The design, construction and operation of New Tecumseth's built environment needs to be viewed through a green lens. As an individual who has been involved in the construction for 47 years I've seen many changes in the industry. Alternative building size and methods must be implemented. For example, tiny homes built with hemp and lime would reduce the carbon footprint of construction. New Tecumseth is an agricultural community where hemp could be grown to address the climate crisis.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: Referendum style decision making involving the whole community in design, construction, and maintenance of civic spaces would result in design excellence while meeting community and environmental needs.

Implementing policies that mandate that developers pay for the above would contribute to a healthy community and environment while controlling costs for the The Town of New Tecumseth and its residents.