

Fred Nix

Deputy Mayor Candidate in the Town of Mono
Dufferin County

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: I do not have a simple answer to a question as complex as this. But I certainly agree that the issues of homelessness and affordable housing are serious and of growing concern. In Dufferin County, we have 743 households (2021) on our Centralized Wait List (a wait list for some form of housing assistance). And this number grows larger every year – in 2015 it was 475.

You ask me what policies and actions I believe need to be implemented. My answer is that I am still working my way through the provincial government’s 2011 document “Municipal Tools For Affordable Housing.” It is 28 pages long so there is no way I can summarize it here. I can say that I have got to the point of taking a couple of the ideas in this booklet and started to explore their feasibility with town staff.

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: I think the answer to your question is “a lot of things (building code changes, building retrofit programs, education, etc.) Dufferin County has a climate action plan (2021 “Dufferin Climate Action Plan”) which is fairly general but does touch on some of these things. I believe implementation of the plan has been slowed by the pandemic. My own municipality (Town of Mono) just adopted a climate action plan of its own this past month. Neither of these plans, in my view, is very specific in terms of what has to be done. However, at the county level, one of the next steps in the plan has been approved. This is the “Better Homes Dufferin County Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program Design” dated June 2022 and approved by Council in July 2022. The Council approval authorised

staff to proceed to the next step in the design of the program. My guess is that it will probably take up to a year to see this program implemented. But, when and if it is implemented, it will see some innovative methods used to get homeowners to make retrofits to their homes so that the homes become more energy efficient.

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: My simple answer would be (a) elect councillors who care, and (b) ensure municipalities are properly funded.