

Answers from Jane Fogal, Candidate for Re-Election as Regional Councillor, Halton Hills

1. 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?

I think we should revisit zoning rules to enable a greater variety of housing to be built in residential and commercially zoned areas. We have created rigidity in the system that is intended to zone-out incursions into R1 zoned areas by medium density housing and the people who would live in those building types. We should certainly allow medium density surrounding commercial areas so that residents living in apartments or townhouses will have access to services. We should also explore allowing more commercial within residential areas. It is happening anyway with hair salons in basements and accountants working out of home offices. Why not allow a coffee shop in a subdivision? Traffic would likely be 96% pedestrian and cyclists.

2. 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 prioritized to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

I think we need to improve the building code to bring it up net-zero territory. And we ramp up a federal or provincial program to incentivize retrofitting existing buildings. Every building should be rated for energy efficiency and that rating should be public. We shouldn't allow natural gas in new subdivisions. All houses should either have solar panels or be solar ready.

3. 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?

As we add density to our communities there is a need to increase access to public space which means making more of it. The biggest user of public space seems to be car parking areas. We should consider taking back some of the space devoted to parking to create more public space. It doesn't have to be all green space. Plazas with planters, tables and chairs and shade trees or shade canopies and something for children's play can provide a calm escape from hustle and bustle. Making space available and free is necessary in urban environments. This requires the expertise of a good landscape architect to create the right vibe.