



## Ward 4 Candidate: Shawna Stolte

Question 1	If elected, will you commit to the protection of Burlington greenspace and Halton farmland, including opposing the construction of Highway 413, and prioritizing the establishment of <b>complete, 15-minute communities</b> in your ward/throughout the city?
Response:	<b>Yes. As the present Ward 4 City and Regional Councillor, I have already demonstrated, and will continue to uphold, my firm commitment to protecting the greenspace of Burlington and Halton farmland by voting AGAINST the expansion of the Urban Boundary. I strongly oppose the construction of Highway 413 and will continue to work hard to establish complete communities, both in Ward 4 and throughout the City of Burlington.</b>
Question 2a	<p>Transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in Burlington, and currently accounts for over 40% of total emissions. Reducing emissions from this sector is an essential step to reach Burlington's goal of community carbon neutrality by 2050. If elected:</p> <p>A) Will you support the changes and funding investments required to boost public transit ridership (e.g. purchase more (electric) buses; enhance frequency, range, reliability, density &amp; directness) to make public transit an appealing and effective option in Burlington?</p>
Response:	<b>Yes. My historic voting record and comments show that I enthusiastically supported Burlington Transit's 5-year Business Plan when it came before Council, and I continue to be very committed to improving Burlington Transit services and finding new and innovative ways to incentivize ridership. Continuing to commit to building a public transit system that offers a reliable, efficient and affordable alternative to car travel is one important way to get more cars off the road, make a positive impact on traffic congestion and reduce GHG emissions.</b>
Question 2b	What specific actions will you take to make active transportation (cycling, walking, ...) an appealing and effective option in Burlington?

<b>Response:</b>	In order to meet the targets necessary to reduce our CO2 emissions, as defined in the Burlington Climate Action Plan, we <b>MUST</b> commit the time, staffing and funding resources to ensure improved, safe and maintained infrastructure for Active Transportation options. Safety for cycling begins with truly designated and <b>PROTECTED</b> bike lanes in Burlington. Painted lines on the road does not provide safety for cyclists. These dedicated cycling routes need to be properly signed, maintained and cleared in the winter if we truly want to encourage and support a healthy and safe cycling infrastructure Burlington needs to implement a BikeShare program in order to create and encourage a convenient cycling option for residents who at this point only consider cycling a weekend, recreational activity. With convenient availability to choose cycling by having traditional and electric bikes readily available to rent, Burlington has the opportunity to dramatically increase the likelihood of residents choosing this option instead of driving.
Question 2c	Will you support opportunities to increase and prioritize public EV chargers to ensure equitable distribution on City property across the community and with consideration of accessible design standards?
<b>Response:</b>	<b>Yes. Absolutely. Without the commitment to a robust, equitable and well designed system of EV chargers throughout the City we cannot expect residents to make the necessary choice of their next purchase to be an electric vehicle. Accessible design standards are critical for all of the infrastructure across the City of Burlington and access to the EV charging network is not exception.</b>
Question 3	We are facing a sixth mass extinction event. Biodiversity is critical for climate mitigation/adaptation and local accessible nature is vital for mental and physical well-being, but Burlington does not have a biodiversity action plan. If elected, will you champion the creation of a <a href="#">biodiversity action plan</a> within the next 4 years and advocate for the resources/budget to initiate its implementation?
<b>Response:</b>	<b>Yes. Conversations have begun with environmental organizations and with City Staff regarding the necessity to create, AND IMPLEMENT, a Biodiversity Action Plan in addition to our Climate Action and our Climate Adaptation Plans. The question has never been one of necessity, the question that I have faced has always been one of available resources. I will commit to continuing to advocate for the resources/budget necessary to create and implement a Biodiversity Action Plan for the City of Burlington.</b>
Question 4	If elected, will you actively demonstrate your support for the <a href="#">Reform Gravel Mining Coalition</a> push for a temporary moratorium on new gravel mining applications in Ontario, by supporting a pause on all new and expanded quarry permits in Burlington?
<b>Response:</b>	<b>Yes. I will need to do more research to familiarize myself with the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition, but if their mandate (as it seems to be) is to push for a temporary moratorium on all new and expanded quarry permits in Burlington, then YES, I am very comfortable supporting this initiative.</b>

Question 5	<p>Climate Change is worsening existing inequities and putting marginalized community members at increased risk of harm if mitigation and adaptation efforts are not carefully planned (see <a href="#">Health in a Changing Climate report</a>).</p> <p>If elected, will you champion the effective integration of measures such as vulnerability and equity impact assessments into city plans and processes to prevent avoidable harm to marginalized Burlington residents, and encourage other members of council to support this as a top priority?</p>
Response:	<p><b>Yes. We definitely need to be very aware of the existing inequities in our community and how marginalized residents in Burlington will suffer from increased risk of harm if we do not plan our mitigation and adaptation efforts carefully and thoughtfully. I absolutely will advocate for measures to be incorporated into our City plans, policies and processes to prevent additional harm to our most vulnerable residents.</b></p>
Question 6	<p>Please share some of the actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint:</p>
Response:	<p><b>My family has, within the past 18 months, consciously moved from our large home into a much smaller, and more energy efficient multi-unit dwelling, as we were 'over-housed' and were wasting energy heating and cooling a large home that we did not need. This move to a more simplified lifestyle also consciously included getting out of our vehicle and walking and cycling much more often around our community, to the grocery store and to meet up with friends and family. We have made a considerable effort to change our habits to hang our laundry to dry instead of using the clothes dryer, as well foregone air conditioning in our new, smaller residence in an effort to minimize our environmental footprint.</b></p>