

## Introduction

Old ideas can sometime use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings – *Jane Jacobs*  
The greenest building is the one that's already built. – *Carl Elephante, US National Trust for Historic Preservation*

## Section I: Property Rights

*Under the Ontario Heritage Act, listing and protecting heritage properties is a municipal responsibility, not a private responsibility. A heritage property may be designated by the municipality over an owner's objection, and the owner may appeal the designation to the Conservation Review Board (for individual property designations) or the Ontario Municipal Board (for heritage district designations).*

a) Do you agree that a municipal council should act if necessary to designate heritage property even where the owner disagrees?

**I think we should act ahead of any heritage site confrontation and begin the process of building relationships, educating owners and communicating our intentions. With a proper long term plan we can head off any problems before they happen. The power of heritage would come not from imposing designation on owners, but having them buy into the process, and having a heritage designation seen as a positive rather than a negative.**

## Section II: Adequacy of Protection

a) How will you balance development pressures against the need to preserve archaeological and heritage structures and neighbourhoods?

**Long-term planning, clear expectations, educated land and building owners, an educated public and media, and a communication strategy that is proactive, open and transparent, this is the best way to proceed. We have spent far too much time in a reactionary position when it comes to heritage and this has always meant that heritage loses. A whole new approach to how we manage heritage issues in the community is needed. A Heritage Master Plan is a good start, but we should also look at initiatives like a Heritage Trust that are proactive, and actions to educate and preserve, rather than the current situation of react and lament.**

b) Do you think that Brantford's built and natural heritage features are adequately identified, and adequately protected? If not, what do you think should be done to improve the situation?

**Our built heritage features are neither accurately identified nor protected, and we need a Heritage Master Plan to start the process of understanding what we have. The Master Plan must be a community-wide approach that will create a greater understanding, and work to make current opponents future supporters. Brantford needs a Heritage Trust, that would work from the Master Plan to identify, purchase, restore and repurpose our built heritage features. A Heritage Trust can also become the body with community-wide buy-in**

## Section III: Role of Municipality

*Under Ontario law, listing and protecting heritage property is primarily a municipal responsibility.*

a) What do you think is the single most important action the municipal government could undertake to encourage heritage preservation in Brantford?

**Completing a Heritage Master Plan and supporting the creation of a Heritage Trust. The Heritage Master Plan is for identification of what we have, strength of heritage connection and a starting point. The Heritage Trust is the implementation body for what comes from the Master Plan. The entire process must be an education, communication and relationship building process for the community, so that we are working to make heritage an essential aspect of the development of our community.**

b) How do you think Brantford compares to other North American cities in its efforts to preserve its heritage? And do you have any examples of best practices that Brantford could adopt?

**The preservation of heritage is an issue for communities all over the world, and while we do not have the best track record, we should also not focus only on what has gone wrong. There are models locally that show how buildings can be repurposed, and we need to shine a light on what can be done as well as what has been lost. There are models from communities right across N.A. but I lean toward models that have embraced a Heritage Trust as a best practise to move forward with heritage preservation and community involvement.**

## **Section IV: Financial Incentives**

- a) Given the large amount of public support for heritage preservation, will you support funding, laws, policy, and appointments that encourage it? Please list any specific initiatives that you would propose.

**Create a Heritage Trust to remove the confrontational Heritage Committee process that currently exists. What we need to work on is spending money on education, communication and building relationships. The heritage process in this community needs a clean slate to start with so we can create a made in Brantford solution to all heritage problems. Council must lead this process to bring heritage issues into the light of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city.**

b) Will you support financial assistance and advice to those who seek to conserve and restore their heritage properties?

**Absolutely, it is a wonderful tool for getting owner and developer buy in, and allows for a uniformity of approach to preservation of heritage properties.**

## **Section V: Adaptive Reuse**

*As our communities change, it may no longer be practical to use heritage buildings such as schools or churches for their original purpose.*

- a) Would you encourage the adaptive reuse of Brantford's built heritage when its traditional uses are no longer feasible?

**Absolutely, we have been able to repurpose many buildings in our downtown to use as residences, or university buildings and this is a wonderful use of the properties. What is now Post House was the strong building that was our Post Office, and then the Holstein Association building, and then to turn it into a residence during my time as Mayor was a fantastic undertaking. This was no easy task either as the developer had to contend with a bank vault that was courses of brick and inches thick steel...all part of heritage preservation. There are many potential reuses for buildings; it takes creativity, financial support, and community-wide involvement to see the future of heritage.**

## Section VI: Heritage Conservation Districts

*The Ontario Heritage Act enables municipal councils to protect not only individual properties but also districts of cultural heritage value or interest. Part V of the Act, entitled "Heritage Conservation Districts", deals with the protection and enhancement of an aggregate of buildings, streets and open spaces that as a group, represent a collective asset to a community in much the same way as an individually designated property.*

a) Do you think that Heritage Conservation Districts help communities?

**They certainly can, being able to create a larger area that had heritage significance adds weight behind any heritage undertaking. Like Victoria Park we can create heritage districts that can preserve a rich history for generations to come.**

b) Do you have examples in your community of loss of heritage that you think should have been saved? If so, what would have been needed to change the outcome?

**There are examples, but I don't want to dwell on what has happened, I only want to work on what can be done to stop this in the future. While I believe we learn from our history, we can't live there, so we must look to what is in place now, and how we can work to preserve the most significant features.**

## Section VII: Personal Commitment

*This question addresses your personal involvement in heritage preservation.*

a) What do you see as the value to the community of preservation of heritage properties? What have you done to save built heritage in Brantford?

**During my time as Mayor, for example, we repurposed the Carnegie Library and Post House. I was instrumental in securing the funding and laying out the terms of reference for the Heritage Inventory (much underutilized today). These are but a few of the examples, but I am prepared to put my record for heritage protection up against any candidate in the race today.**

**Signed:**

**Print Name:**

**Date**