

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?

Only in instances where the building has historical significance. Heritage buildings should be identified and graded (as they do in Europe). Property owners should be made aware of historical importance before they purchase so that they are fully aware of potential costs and restrictions.

I support a collaborative approach with property owners rather than a council edict. A heavy handed approach will in my opinion create confrontation and resistance to heritage protection.

Section II: Adequacy of Protection

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

Some heritage buildings in downtown Brantford are being beautifully restored for use by WLU.

These buildings were well maintained. Unfortunately other buildings have been allowed to deteriorate to the point where it was not cost effective or feasible for private sector investment.

The balance between old and new would be to ensure new buildings are designed and built to appear old or where feasible maintain the building façade (Brantford Collegiate) and build/renovate behind it.

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?

I think there needs to be a lot more public awareness of heritage buildings and properties, where do Museums fit into the picture? The Heritage committee needs to have a stronger voice in the community with members representing a wider cross section including stake holders. From the feedback I'm receiving some property owners are fearful and resentful of the restrictions inherent in designated heritage buildings, this shouldn't be.

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?

Educate and work with heritage property owners in a mutually agreeable way. Provide initiatives for preservation. Recognize and reward responsible property owners for preservation. The key word in the question is "encourage".

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?

I can only guess that we are about average. With the introduction of "Box stores" many downtown areas in cities across Ontario have fallen into neglect with fewer customers and revenue making it difficult for building owners to make necessary repairs and maintenance.

Cambridge is a good example of how the downtown area has been reasonably well maintained. They seem to have a well thought out plan for building renovation and standards.

With a good section of heritage buildings already knocked down it is becoming increasingly difficult to compare Brantford with other communities.

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.

From what I'm hearing during my campaign the public in ward 2 do not want a strong arm approach to heritage preservation. While I consider the cost of heritage to be important, the taxpayer is more important. I support a collaborative approach to heritage preservation with all the stakeholders involved.

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

I believe in assisting and advising property owners who want to conserve and maintain their building. I support financial incentives as opposed to any increase to the existing taxpayer burden.

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?

Yes. There are several examples of this where WLU has converted buildings for student use.

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?

The best example I've seen of this is Savannah, Georgia where approx 1 square mile of buildings have and are being preserved and maintained in the pre and post American Civil war condition. Further more the local university offers programs that specialize in heritage preservation (research and hands on). This historic area is a big attraction for tourists and generates revenue for businesses and the City of Savannah. I would support an investigation into the feasibility of a conservation district in Brantford with all the interested stakeholders involved.

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?

I would like to have seen the Kirby Hotel saved (burned down), and Eaton Market Square not built to preserve the character of the downtown area. We need a comprehensive plan for downtown that includes heritage preservation as well as new development.

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?

The value to the community has many aspects: attracting tourists to the community, visibly showing younger and future generations our past heritage, business opportunities, prestige for property owners (if building well maintained).

I have not been actively involved in heritage preservation. We proudly take friends and family from abroad to the Bell Homestead, Mohawk Chapel, Myrtleville and Military Museum that supports our heritage.

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