

## 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?

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I believe that individual property owners should have the option to designate their properties as heritage sites.

## Section II: Adequacy of Protection

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

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During a planning meeting, council has the option and the authority to apply certain restrictions in order to preserve certain buildings or sites. My role, as a councillor, would be to consider all the ramifications of the information provided and vote accordingly.

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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?

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There is a report which identifies our archeological sites in the city. During planning meetings, staff would take into consideration and identify heritage features for council's deliberation. This information would assist me in taking a position based on all the factors presented.

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## 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?

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The municipal government could develop a program in conjunction with all interested parties to encourage heritage preservation.

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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 think we would be in the average category comparatively speaking. Quebec City does a wonderful job of heritage preservation and I understand that monetary aid is provided for owners who maintain their heritage properties according to rules set out by the municipality.

#### **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.

Should there be overwhelming support by the public for heritage preservation in Brantford, then I would support a grant program similar to the downtown improvement plan of the past.

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

Yes, depending on what is required and if an adequate plan is in place.

#### **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, wherever possible.

#### **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?

I believe that it would be an asset to the community to have Heritage Conservation Districts, however, this must be balanced with the property rights of the individual

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?

**No**

**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?

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Heritage properties enhance the beauty of a city. I voted for the designation of Brant Avenue as a Heritage District.

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**Signed:**

**Print Name:** Vince Bucci

**Date:** September 12, 2010