



## CANADIAN INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CENTRE (CIHC)

Royal Victoria Place, 136 Dalhousie Street, P.O. Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4

Dear Municipal Candidate,

The preservation of built heritage has become a significant issue in communities across Ontario, as well as here in Brantford. The demolition of forty-one buildings on the south side of Colborne Street in downtown Brantford elicited strong responses from people in Brantford as well as media, individuals and organizations outside the city.

The following questionnaire is intended to gauge candidates' positions on issues pertaining to built heritage. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire. Your responses will be shared with the residents of Brantford to let them know where you stand on these important issues. Your responses will not be edited in any way. If you do not complete and return the questionnaire, it will be noted that you have no comment on heritage issues.

Completed questionnaires can be returned by email to: [info@canadianindustrialheritage.org](mailto:info@canadianindustrialheritage.org) or by mail to: Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre, PO Box 23055, Brantford, ON N3T 6K4. Please return questionnaires by: Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

We appreciate your time and interest in heritage issues.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Dearlove  
Executive Director  
Canadian Industrial Heritage Centre

## 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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## 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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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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### **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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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?

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### **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.

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

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## 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?

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## 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?

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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?

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**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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**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_