

City of Waterloo candidates for Regional Council

*Ed Korschewitz, Jane Mitchell, Bob Oberholtzer, Karen Scian, Sean Strickland,
Andrew Telegdi*

What value to our community is preservation of heritage properties?

EK	Respecting those that have gone before us is important to understand who we are. Those in public office need to represent the wishes of the people above and beyond any one personal agenda. If we use the previous statement as a guide, the wheels of change will turn very slow but at a well balanced pace.
JM	[no response]
BO	Unlimited.
KS	I tend to consider Heritage through an economic development lens, understanding that heritage preservation can successfully enhance a community's aesthetics, diversity, and appeal to citizens. As an example, I love visiting the Galt area in Cambridge, as they have successfully leveraged heritage as one of their greatest economic assets.
SS	I highly value the preservation of heritage properties.
AT	I highly value the preservation of heritage properties.

What have you done to save built heritage in your municipality?

EK	The organizations that I belong to have been involved with building our heritage and respecting what they have built is very important to develop traditions.
JM	As chair of the GRCA, I am pleased with the development of the listing of Heritage Bridges, particularly those in Waterloo Region. Along with Joseph Schneider Haus and McDougall cottage, the Region has preserved the Freeport and Bridgeport Bridges. The Region has preserved the Gaol and Governor's house (Thanks to the tireless work of Councillor Jean Haalboom). The Old Courthouse has had its exterior and I believe some interior decoration preserved.
BO	Have tried to have the federal govt re-open the pioneer tower off #8 Highway for a student employment project and have signs replaced on Highway 8 which have disappeared.
KS	We have implemented a significant number of policies in Waterloo, designed to institutionalize best practices in this area. I have supported some and challenged others, striving to find the balance between the past and the future. Ideally, I believe that we need to figure out how to successfully weave them together. I have supported the creation of our first heritage conservation district in Waterloo. I was excited to support the listings of the Graffunder House on Stanley Drive and the Log Schoolhouse in Waterloo Park and appreciate how these steps enrich our community. I have supported the hiring of Waterloo's first Heritage Planner and the initiation of a heritage master plan, in response to the excellent work of our City of Waterloo Heritage Committee. I also believe that we need to work with the private sector to further the idea of stewardship of heritage buildings in our Region.
SS	I used to own one on Norman Street in Waterloo and spent several thousand dollars upgrading etc. I also served on LACAC in Waterloo and worked hard to save Rummelhardt School on Erb st. I also supported and fought hard to preserve the former

	<p>police HQ in Uptown Waterloo (I believe it was the first equitable life building but not sure) when others were willing to sell it without guaranteeing it's preservation. Similiarialiy worked hard to preserve the Court Hous on Weber st, a more modern example, when some would sell it in a heart beat. These are just a few examples of my work to preserve built heritage in waterloo region, (MacDougall cottage, Joseph schneider haus, waterloo regional museum are others)</p>
AT	<p>I was on Waterloo City Council when we preserved a number of buildings: Button Factory, Carnegie Library, Barrel Warehouses, including the former Seagram's Museum and Puncher's Menswear.</p>

How will you balance land development pressures against the need to preserve significant landscapes, heritage structures and older neighbourhoods?

EK	<p>Engaging the communities so that we have acceptable urban planning solutions that the majority can live with, is most important.</p>
JM	<p>The Regional official plan has put a line around the urban area to preserve our agricultural areas. We also have preserved landscapes in the ESL areas and scenic roads. Neighbourhoods are the job of the cities.</p>
BO	<p>Protect these properties by extensive zoning bylaws.</p>
KS	<p>Preserving heritage buildings in the Urban Cores is one of the greatest challenges that we face in Waterloo Region, as we work to implement the Light Rail Transit plan and intensify the urban core areas. Clearly, the tension between the two opposing goals will be accelerated with intensification. It will be imperative for the Regional and Local municipal governments to coordinate their efforts to support the desire of residents to maintain the spirit and character of their unique neighbourhoods, whether it be during construction of the LRT or in land-use decisions. I am hopeful that the upcoming City of Waterloo's imminent Heritage Master Plan will guide our local council in this area.</p>
SS	<p>Please see above. I am already doing this and will continue to do so. I suggest groups such as yours provide an update to regional council on a yearly basis on properties you have on the list for designation.</p>
AT	<p>Assess the heritage value and the economic value of structures and streetscapes. Compare these values with the development value. Make a decision.</p>

Many studies have shown the environmental advantages of retrofitting heritage buildings vs. demolishing them and building new buildings, even new energy-efficient, LEED certified buildings. (e.g. [The Greenest Building: quantifying the environmental impact of building reuse](#)).

Would you encourage the adaptive reuse of your community's built heritage? How?

EK	<p>Having a comprehensive architectural design that goes with the urban plan would be the first step in developing new structures that also incorporate the existing design and structures.</p>
JM	<p>The region is adapting the Rumpel Felt building as part of the new Victoria Transit Hub. The Crossroads and Regional Museum are preserving many artifacts and telling the story of our Region. I was on the Regional Museum building committee. The Region has the Regional Heritage Fund which gives out, at arms length, funds for heritage projects.</p>
BO	<p>This is in line with my family's heritage since our family arrived here in 1804. See the</p>

	book "Trail of the Black Walnut". How? By supporting any & all groups such as Architectural Conservancy Ontario when I am elected.
KS	Absolutely, this is an excellent approach to integrating the benefits of heritage elements into the urban built-form. Recent examples in Waterloo include the St. Louis School Project (although I would have preferred a stronger business case and financial ROI for the City) and our current interest in revitalizing the Carnegie Library as an open data incubator. As you know, I believe that a good decision has a strong financial component, and I would like to see a collective effort to accomplish that.
SS	YES. We have grants in place that need to be continued. Also encourage transit oriented development where existing buildings and can be modernized. The Breithaupt block and Tannery are prime examples of this. New boutique hotel for Uptown Waterloo is another example.
AT	When the heritage building belongs to the city, make it a condition of sale. When the heritage building is privately owned be flexible with the zoning by-law.

What two additional heritage landscapes/ properties/ districts would like to see protected through listing or designation?

EK	The Mennonite Community, and the St. Jacobs area should have limited allowable development.
JM	Rumpel Felt building which is being repurposed. Heritage areas near the new LRT/ION stations to give us a vibrant mixed use urban area. I would like to see Albert St. from Columbia to Bridgeport preserved. This is a City of Waterloo responsibility but I can see this historic area gone and replaced by high rises very shortly.
BO	1. Pioneer Tower on our former family farm property. 2. Hagey Mennonite Cemetary where my family is buried. 3. Heidelberg Hotel built in 1840 as a stagecoach stop which I owned 1982-1995.
KS	We have discussed the notion of environmental heritage in Waterloo: Heritage Tree Inventory and the designation of heritage landscapes. This idea intrigues me as something very Waterloo Region and worth exploring. The 'Hamlet of Erbsville' in the upper Northwest corner of Waterloo is the home of a great number of possible heritage spots, specifically linked to the agricultural and environmental history of our community. I believe that leveraging that heritage may improve the quality of life in that corner of our city.
SS	Unsure of this. Please see my suggestion above. Properties are easier to designate then districts/neighbourhoods so I suggest a greater focus on moving the appropriate properties through the process.
AT	Older churches in the core.

Will you support a grant to those who seek to conserve and restore their heritage properties?

EK	Providing grants is a very unproductive and dangerous precedent. I would rather see a tax break for those that maintain or improve their sites.
JM	The Region has a brownfield incentive program. Heritage property grants are the responsibility of the cities.
BO	Yes.
KS	I am always interested in exploring new funding models, particularly if they are

	connected to enabling others to do great work. As the champion of the Neighbourhood Matching Fund in Waterloo – which has funded heritage/history-related projects including “HEROES – War Veterans in Waterloo Share their Stories”- I have seen the clear ROI on community investments such as this. I would be open to hearing more about this idea.
SS	Yes.
AT	Yes.
How large a grant would you offer to property owners to preserve a heritage building?	
EK	See answer above.
JM	[no response]
BO	Depends, on each case individually.
KS	[no response]
SS	Need more info.
AT	Depends on the building and costs involved.
Are financial incentives important to encourage home owners to invest in heritage properties?	
EK	[no response]
JM	[no response]
BO	Yes
KS	[no response]
SS	Yes.
AT	Yes, modestly.