



# NORTH SHORE HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2695 Nelson Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 2R8  
(604) 926-6096  
info@northshoreheritage.org

[www.northshoreheritage.org](http://www.northshoreheritage.org)

BC Society Registration No. S-49292

## CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

### ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE 2005: COUNCIL

1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?
2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?
3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?
4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?

## RESPONSES

### 1. MAYOR

#### Rod Clark

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

We must preserve our heritage buildings by whatever means are available. They are an important resource in our community.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I believe we need to create partnerships in order to preserve the greatest number of heritage buildings. Innovative uses, public/private partnerships and tax incentives are all worthy of consideration. Even such a little thing as free water and sewer hookups would soften the financial blow to those dedicated to preserving heritage buildings.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Grants may be a problem in the face of the financial pressures our City is facing, however tax and other incentives I fully support.

4. *What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

These are important heritage resources, worthy of maximum effort in order that they be preserved.

## **Darrell Mussatto**

1. *What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I think the preservation of heritage buildings in the City of North Vancouver is of critical importance to the telling of our story and to the future development of our city. Respectfully preserving our past makes for a solid foundation to building our future.

2. *What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Use all the tools we have available now including heritage protection bylaws as well as incentives such as density bonusing and density transfers to preserve and protect existing heritage structures. We must give financial incentives to heritage property owners to make their efforts worthwhile pursuing.

3. *Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Yes. I have no trouble investigating such incentives and looking for ways in which heritage preservation makes financial sense for both the owner and the public. As well, making better access of provincial and federal government programs and funding by city staff would be a priority. Even private industry programs such as that offered by Benjamin Moore Paints should be pursued.

4. *What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Both historic buildings must be preserved, and the city must play a role in their protection and eventual restoration. I would also add the recently closed Lonsdale Elementary School to this list.

## **Barbara Sharp**

1. *What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage buildings are extremely important to me both on the North Shore and elsewhere. I personally live in a 1921 house that was built by one of the former Treasurers (and a member of the School Board). I love this house and I love the heritage and the stories behind the history.

2. *What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I have already spoken out that it is necessary, if we want to save heritage, to provide incentives to the people who own those homes or businesses. Incentives such as tax relief, secondary suites that may have lower than standard ceilings, coachhouses above garages, and so on. We cannot expect people to continue to pay the prices necessary in today's market to keep up these grand homes without some of those incentives. I also believe we need to work with both Provincial and Federal governments to also convince them to create relief or incentives on a wider scale.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Absolutely. I think our recognition program does not go far enough to entice people to keep these homes. ... I think of the current loss of the Goldsworthy house on Grand Boulevard.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

I am a strong advocate to preserve these two City structures. I believe we can find ways to ensure we do not lose them and whether they remain schools or not, there will still be a way to create a building situation that can maintain these and other such valuable heritage buildings.

*Note: The following candidate did not respond: Bill Tomlinson*

## 2. COUNCILLOR

### Pam Bookham

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage buildings serve an important role in our collective identity. They remind us of what our city has been as we envision what it might become.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I am just beginning to think about heritage from a policy point of view. I think education is the key. There are some in our community who do not see heritage preservation as a high priority, especially now that the City is facing financial pressures. The City can play a role here particularly with possibility of relocating the museum to the Lower Lonsdale waterfront. I loved Paine Hardware and was heartsick when it was gutted. I would have to know the total costs for preserving the façade before deciding whether that was the right decision. There is no question that it serves to remind us of what Lower Lonsdale was like years ago. With respect to heritage homes, I have said on more than one occasion that coach house development might be a way to allow a revenue stream while preserving the structural integrity of the home. That discussion should be part of the next OCP revision.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example, through tax or other incentive programs?*

It will be difficult to argue for increased funding for any program under the current financial constraints. The Director of Finance recently addressed a budget shortfall of \$718,000 dollars, the equivalent of a 2.6% tax increase. Most of the factors contributing to this shortfall will be ongoing. I have not been able to locate detailed information on your current funding and how you are using it, so I cannot make a commitment to increased funding at this time.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Community?*

Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary are landmark buildings in the City. Every effort should be made to preserve them if they are structurally sound, if preservation is economically feasible and if they can meet the educational needs of students today or serve some other purpose in the community.

Thank you for the work you are doing to support heritage preservation in North Vancouver. Your efforts have been a real success.

### Sue Cook

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I have just come back from a weekend in Golden, Colorado where my great-grandfather was inducted into the Jefferson County Hall of fame for his work on discovering dinosaurs, at the same ceremony a woman was honored for her work on identifying and listing the heritage buildings in that area. As far as I am concerned the heritage buildings cannot ever be replaced so their value is limitless.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

For starters I would like the City to provide enough funds so that the grounds of Presentation House can be brought up to speed. I also love the idea of fund raisers -- for example a strawberry tea, which may include maypole dancing and other similar events. A "time zone" dance where people dress up in costumes of their favorite times, an "honor seniors" event whereby seniors could hold a bazaar of things that they have made -- since we seem to have lost a lot of the crafts such as knitting, woodcarving, etc. A celebration of cultures event. In other words I do not know how much the hall is used but would it be possible to use it for fund raising events?

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

I would like to see some of the new developers pay a fee towards the preservation of our heritage properties.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Yes I do want to see these buildings preserved - as a matter of fact I have been a member of Lynn Valley Heritage Association and the Pitt Meadows Museum Society.

## **Alfredo De Lucrezia**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

To me, you can't place a value on these buildings. They are part of who we are as people, and how we've grown as a city. They serve as a reminder of the hard work that built our community in the first place.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?/3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

I would support increased funding and incentives for people who preserve heritage buildings. I would give tax relief as an incentive program to offset high taxes. We need to build within our heritage from the past, to create a heritage of our own.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Having a family that has all attended Ridgeway Elementary, these school buildings are close to our hearts, and have deep sentimental value. Their architecture adds to our community, as we do not have many schools built like that any more.

## **Bob Fearnley**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

We need to preserve and maintain significant heritage building as a living link to our past and to promote variety in our inventory of buildings.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

We have a plan already in place to identify and preserve heritage buildings but it is clear that work is needed to update and strengthen those policies.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Yes, as long as it is practical and financially responsible.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

I support preserving and maintain those structures as working schools where possible. We also need to look at something innovative to retain the old Lonsdale Elementary School building if possible. Maybe we can retain and strengthen the shell while upgrading the interior for use as an apartment building.

## **Bob Heywood**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

As a general statement, it is important to preserve significant and representative pieces of our heritage. I am generally aware of the definitions of heritage as it applies to buildings. I wonder about the heritage quality of the frameworks we are left with at the Burrard Dry dock. I wonder if it would not be better to build replicas, equipped with heritage artifacts. I would be interested to hear some of your views on these issues.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

What would you expect Council to do? The Heritage inventories are well developed. There is an awareness on council of the importance of heritage buildings. Should all buildings on the heritage inventory be protected at all costs? What are the limits to this thinking. This would require consideration in each case, depending on all the circumstances.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Is more funding the issue? How much are you talking about? What kind of guidelines would you apply to additional funding? Are you talking about municipal funding? If so, I would certainly be willing to consider proposals in this area, but before being aware of the amounts involved and for what purpose, it is difficult to say in advance what outcome I would support. I am certain there are times when funding is available, but looking forward from today, I see some funding difficulties in the City that is going to put pressure on new funding needs. It is certainly an issue to be considered.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Both Queen Mary and Ridgeway are great examples of heritage buildings. I think they should be preserved and I would suspect this is possible as long as they are maintained in their current use, which will likely continue into the future. These are very quick and top of mind answers to questions that require much more extensive discussion to make meaningful comments. I would want to have more information and discussion before stating a view that I would consider a binding commitment. Perhaps there could be an opportunity for an appropriate discussion at some future date. I could benefit from that.

## **Jason Kanigan**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

As I recently stated at the Grand Boulevard/Ridgeway Residents' Association candidates meeting, I believe our single family dwelling neighbourhoods must be protected, and our heritage homes are a very important part of that. I attended the heritage advisory board's presentation to council last year when they went over potential different ways of tracking heritage homes, and I understand how expensive they are to upkeep.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage homes have to be better identified in the community; perhaps a biweekly news article or a profile on one in each City Views magazine, or an article on the city's website. Citizens need to be educated about the value of these homes.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Absolutely. I know these do not have to be massive financial breaks in order to make a difference. Something needs to be done to offer heritage homeowners the alternative of subdividing their lot and profiting from that; instead, they need an economic incentive to keep their current home. I also spoke about this at the GBRRRA meeting.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Community?*

I have actually bothered to take photographs of Queen Mary school as I really like the architecture. I would not like to see it demolished. Having grown up in Lynn Valley, I miss for example the old Lynn Valley elementary school now replaced by a new structure.

While there are the obvious concerns of keeping the sites safe, I would like to see every effort made to retain existing structures and their 'look' as an historical part of the community. People grew up with those shapes, and it's not a good thing to see them go.

## **Craig Keating**

### *1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage buildings are very valuable to any community. In the built form of the urban landscape they are a reminder of the heritage of our community. As well, to the extent that our streets continue to find expressions of historic forms of architecture, heritage buildings inform contemporary design of new residences (witness the renaissance of Craftsman style construction in single family dwellings). These modern buildings built in historic fashions to conform to the vernacular of given streets often result in better built structures and in more interesting street scapes.

### *2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I have supported our heritage inventory in the past and continue to do so. I will have more to say about specific incentive measures in my response to the next question (both questions seem tied together) but I think we certainly need to begin the process of heritage preservation with a more vigorous program of heritage identification and mechanisms to celebrate heritage and heritage preservation (tours, awareness programs, local history initiatives).

### *3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

As we heard at a recent all candidates meeting, the preservation of heritage buildings is an expensive undertaking especially for single family owners. I am prepared to look at tax incentives and grants as a way of supporting heritage preservation and restoration. However, such programs can too easily find themselves on the chopping block of municipal budgets. I believe, though, that there is a useful way to put the resources necessary for heritage preservation in the hands of individual homeowners through our land use regulations by allowing for greater flexibility as regards such things as suites, in-fill housing, subdivision and other land use tools that Council can regulate by policy. As we've seen in the past, tools like these have been used to support the preservation and restoration of such sites as the McNair House, Hamersley House, and the old Paine Hardware building. Such tools are highly effective and fiscally sustainable regardless of other pressures on municipal budgets.

### *4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Community?*

I am a great believer in the preservation of heritage public buildings. As noted above, I was a supporter of the density transfer that allowed for the retention of the Paine Hardware building. I would be very pleased not only to see the retention of Ridgeway and Queen Mary Schools, but their retention in their current use.

## **Hamid Najian**

### *1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

The heritage buildings in my country, Persia/Iran, are over 2,500 years old. We have learned to keep, love and preserve them. Therefore preservation of our heritage is in my blood. As an Architect and resident of North Vancouver I believe on the value and preservation of our heritage buildings and appreciate their beauty in our community. It is our responsibility to keep, maintain and promote our heritage buildings in North Vancouver.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I will review the existing rules and regulation of heritage preservation in our City and provide more up to date policies and effective guidelines to ensure the implementation and protection of our heritage buildings in the City of North Vancouver.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Definitely yes, because without sufficient funds we can not implement our program. I believe sufficient funding is the blood line for implementation and preservation of our heritage buildings

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

I think historic school buildings in the City of North Vancouver such as Ridgeway Elementary School and Queen Mary Community have had a valuable contribution in the education of our children for many years. They have produced some of the leaders of our society. They are part of our heritage and have to be preserved.

## **David Perfitt**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

This depends on the history and condition of the building or property. I was sad to see the Swedish Rest Home demolished by the MoT without discussion. My favorite heritage building is at East 8<sup>th</sup> Street and St. Andrews. I'm not sure if it is protected. I'm glad to see many newer houses using historical architectural features. I also enjoy transportation history. The dates cast into NVC sidewalks have value. There are corporate seals that are also stamped into these depression era sidewalks. To this date I have not been able to get a good imprint. I'm sure there is an interesting story there. Street car, railway, highway, and bridge history is important too.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I will increase/maintain funding for public awareness (e.g. more heritage walks and architecture appreciation). Provide infilling and restoration funds as necessary.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

I would as required and justified.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Are they under threat? Queen Mary went under a seismic upgrade a few years back. Ridgeway is close to my home. They are fine buildings and should be preserved. Interestingly, they represent political mood swings that are still with us today. Provincial governments of yesteryear were back and forth on education funding levels, and schoolhouse building quality. They made the right choice with these buildings and their fine legacies. Gilmore Avenue School in Burnaby, which my mother attended, was built in the same era.

## **Barbara Perrault**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage buildings that are of value should be saved.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Preserving heritage buildings can be very costly. Remuneration, either by a grant or tax relief, may help in some measure to preserve heritage buildings of value.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Yes, I believe these are some of the ways the City may help in the preservation of buildings of historical and heritage value.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Community?*

I served for the past three years on the City's Heritage Advisory Committee. Ridgeway and Queen Mary School have played a very significant historical part in the development of our city. I believe we should do all that is possible to save and restore these buildings.

## **Sam Schechter**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Heritage is the history and culture that is built and woven into our communities, and while a monetary value is difficult to assess, I equate its value as being on par with public works of art, parks and green spaces, and other landmarks and artifacts of cultural, historical, and social importance to our community. Further, I believe that we need to ensure the sustainability of our heritage buildings now and into the future.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Improving support and incentive based programs to encourage the affordability of owning and maintaining heritage buildings needs to be a part of a broad program aimed at preserving both privately owned and publicly owned heritage.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Yes, and I would hope that members of the community, council and staff could work together to prepare a proposal to bring together the program that we would need to reach our mutual goals regarding heritage preservation.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

I encourage members of the community to work with the North Vancouver School Board, City, and District to encourage the continued preservation of public heritage sites.

My answers are built around my three key themes of sustainability, affordability, and livability, and trust that my answer reflects those values.

## **Sherry Shaghghi**

### *1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

The heritage buildings in North Vancouver capture a portion of our history, from a time when more attention was paid to ensuring that buildings were in harmony with the unique environmental features of the North Shore. They add quality, value, and diversity to our lives and community, and are a constant reminder of the importance of building aesthetically pleasing buildings that integrate well with their surroundings. Therefore, my position is that they need to be protected for the future and not forgotten and lost as merely part of the past. It is important to preserve and protect our past.

### *2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

- promote and bring awareness of the value of heritage building to the community
- pursuing and developing more cost effective techniques for maintenance and restoration of heritage buildings
- we need to have under the Building Code Act, standards by-law in effect that council may stipulate minimum maintenance standards for the heritage attributes of designated properties.

### *3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

Because of the high cost of maintaining, preserving, and restoring heritage buildings, alternative and attractive funding strategies are keys. While providing direct grants may be difficult to justify when compared to other competing funding requirements, I am fully supporting of providing tax to owners who properly maintain and preserve their heritage buildings. Other incentives could include zoning by-law, subdivision by-law and parking by-law relaxations, density bonuses and transfers, and permit fast tracking, to encourage the restoration and continued use of heritage buildings.

### *4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Elementary?*

Ridgeway Elementary school was built in 1912. It is a very rich and detail-oriented building. I have a friend who lives across from this building. I enjoy watching it each time I visit her. Personally I value our heritage buildings a lot. They give a richness and value to our city and our community. Both of these schools should be preserved. However, priority should be given to the functional needs of the schools so that their requirements for public education are met first. We do not want a situation where heritage preservation, and/or the pursuit of funding for it, is hindering or compromising the education system. Therefore, the challenge in preserving these schools is going to be the financing. In addition to contributing funds, the City should pursue creative financing opportunities such as seeking funding partners and sponsors.

## **Marlene Unger**

### *1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I feel Heritage buildings have a great value. Considering the fact that Canada is one of the young countries in the world, we are basically just coming into what we can call Heritage.

*2. What might you do to help better preserve heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

Make sure we look to every possible avenue for funding, to preserve, maintain or upgrade the Heritage buildings we have.

*3. Would you support increased funding for heritage preservation, for example through grant, tax or other incentive programs?*

I know the Heritage Society looks at each case individually. Since I have not yet served on Council, I am not sure exactly where the grant money comes from to say if we can increase the amount. I would definitely look into it. I too understand that the construction and renovation costs are always increasing.

*4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary and Queen Mary Community?*

It would be great to be able to preserve them, but if the cost to upgrade even just the front facade is extreme, compared to rebuilding, maybe we could look at a reproduction rebuild. Having the front facade reproduced with a corner block commemorating the original building. This is one way to preserve the look and keep our children safe at the same time.

*Note: The following candidate did not respond: Elko Kroon*

## ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE 2005: SCHOOL BOARD

1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?
2. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?
3. Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?

## RESPONSES

### 3. SCHOOL TRUSTEE

#### Chris Dorais

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I am very supportive of preserving the heritage of North Vancouver including significant heritage buildings throughout the City of North Vancouver. Coming from a family who has lived here for a few generations and a family who developed community activities and worked on the North Shore through those generations, I have strong ties to many aspects of North Vancouver including important structures.

*2. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?*

Ridgeway, Queen Mary, and Lonsdale Elementary are cornerstone buildings in our community. The School District is currently conducting a canvass of options for the Ridgeway site in order to move on to a feasibility study. The Lonsdale site will be prominent over the next couple of years as it is no longer utilized as an elementary school and the School Board will be considering its use. Queen Mary has had some seismic upgrading but also is a building that is being looked at closely in the context of the School District's overall capital requirements.

I'm supportive of retaining the heritage of these three buildings. We need to have an open and frank discussion amongst all stakeholders including the North Shore Heritage Preservation Society to consider the School District's needs for children and the financial constraints the School District will face in addressing the capital needs at these three sites. I believe if we have that discussion with an open dialogue for timelines for each site that there can be a creative approach with the City of North Van, the School District, and other stakeholders to ensure we address and preserve the heritage value to the community.

3. *Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?*

I prefer preservation of Ridgeway. What that will look like, depends on the discussion I mentioned in question #2.

Thank you again for your efforts and allowing me the opportunity to respond to these questions.

## **Kate Lunn**

1. *What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I was born in Canada, but raised in England. Vancouver is relatively modern to me. I was schooled in York. For that reason, I would like us to maintain what little history we have. The older buildings in North Vancouver should be maintained if it is fiscally responsible/possible, though I recognise the need for them to be safe.

2. *What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?*

My position would have to be, if possible I would like to see them remain, for historic and community reasons, however, if they are to continue to be used as school buildings, I assume they (like all other schools in the district) will need to undergo seismic upgrades, and restoration may be needed to maintain their appearance. (I know the school that my children attend had to undergo extensive seismic upgrades and is still classed as a concern and it is not heritage.) I do not know for sure, but would guess that in the case of a 'heritage site' the cost may be substantially more? One possibility may be for the funding to come from outside the School District? Provincial heritage money, or federal heritage money? I would be willing to explore these options. Especially for Lonsdale as it is no longer used as a school. I do know (from Finance & Facility meetings, and the 5 year Capital Planning meetings) that funding for projects is slow in process, and appears to come in order of priority. Ridgeway and Queen Mary are well used facilities though. I hope we can preserve them, and at the same time provide a safe & healthy environment for our children.

3. *Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?*

To answer this question, I would have to have access to a research study. I would have to see the figures to preserve Ridgeway, and also to replace it. I would also like to see if there is any possibility in enlisting the City of North Vancouver to help financially. I would like to say Yes, but need more information. I have to confess that this is an area in which I am not well versed, though I am willing to learn.

## **Susan Skinner**

1. *What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I place a very high value on heritage buildings in North Vancouver. These buildings are irreplaceable and therefore are priceless landmarks. I believe in making it a

priority to ensure the heritage buildings in North Vancouver are protected and every effort should be made at the preservation of these tangible connections to our history.

*2. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?*

I think it would be excellent if money could be found to preserve all three of those buildings. Lonsdale should be seismically upgraded and could possibly be incorporated into the undertakings of the Centennial Theatre and the Rec Center complex that is on the east side of Lonsdale. Lonsdale could also be a good home for a magnet school as it has a central location on a bus line. I understand the priority of preserving these buildings. However, I also understand the funding shortfalls facing our school district. With declining enrolment posing a challenge for our school district we will need to rely more on joint use of space to maximize the space utilization of some of these buildings. I would advocate for financial support for the preservation of these buildings from the provincial government as well as the District and City of North Vancouver. Community groups and corporate sponsorship could also help provide input on the financial commitment and the utilization of these buildings and specifically the Lonsdale building. We can work together in preserving these historic landmarks. With school buildings that pose a high seismic threat to children I would advocate the provincial government to make it a financial priority to seismically upgrade these buildings rather than replace them.

*3. Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?*

I support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary. The provincial government and the school district must work together in the seismic upgrading of this building. I believe Ridgeway Elementary is a beautiful building that adds much to the aesthetic value of our city.

## **Csaba Frank Tusko**

*1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

The value cannot be measured as it is a link to our past and should be preserved. (An anecdote to illustrate this point: It was over three years ago, the last day of school in June, when my son graduated from Grade 7 at Lonsdale Elementary. Two elderly ladies approached me on the playground if I could take a picture of them with the school in the background. I had to go quite a ways back as the letters of Lonsdale School were hardly visible due to the large trees in front of the school. The old ladies were from San Diego and were delighted that some memory from the past was still standing. Their houses were torn down on account of the highway being built and Lonsdale School was their only link to the past. I invited them inside and they found their old classrooms. Words could not describe the joy they had of reconnecting with the past. The whole trip was worth it for them just to see their old school.)

*2. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?*

They should be preserved at all cost. As a cautionary note, the politics at the board where half the teachers and administrators do not live on the North Shore and do not share this concern. For example, the case of Lonsdale Elementary, the oldest school on the North

Shore. The trees in front of it are designated heritage but not the building as it is not in the best interest of the Board to put it forward for designation.

For years in the past they have been using it as a political football submitting it for upgrade, retrofitting in District 44's capital plan. I remember even seven years ago it was number one on the list of priorities for capital projects. The Board even built an eight room permanent temporary building to accommodate the students while retrofitting occurred. However, delays with permits occurred and instead of September the new building opened on May 27th of the following year, depriving students of their playground for almost a year.

The superintendent was also successful in delaying the repairs to Lonsdale and used some of the funds to finance a study on amalgamation of schools. The Board previously wanted to sell one of their schools in the District to cover their shortfall, just to find out that they could not as the District had title to it and not the School Board. They funded another confidential study to verify which school and properties they had clear title to and the commercial value of each. They identified the money makers.

The next step was to fund a feasibility study on amalgamation. They carefully selected the criteria and the ranges used in the criteria to rank schools from 1 to 5/9. The ones receiving the lowest aggregate score would be closed. The criteria was Age of Schools, Number of Empty Classrooms and Student Enrollment. This way in the City, Lonsdale, Westview and Ridgeway Annex received the lowest scores. To ensure Lonsdale not Westview was chosen the new permanent temporary building with eight classrooms was counted against Lonsdale without even a footnote. However the enrolment at Lonsdale was greater than that of Westview, so they adjusted the range of students so that Westview and Lonsdale would be in the same range and therefore receive equally low scores in the ranking. So much for statistics. A City school had to be closed as two in the District were closed. The costly permanent temporary building is now boarded up. It could easily have been an Annex to Queen Mary for Grades one to four serving the local community. The turnover at Lonsdale was close to 40 percent, an inner city school serving the many new Canadians. I call this waste and not good management.

You may ask, how could this be? Our elected trustees receive their voluminous package on Friday morning, with recommended decisions, to be voted on by Tuesday night's Board Meeting. There have been several submissions to Victoria that were never vetted by the Board just approved after the fact.

This was the case two years ago of the District's Capital Plan. I promise to put in the time, ask the hard questions and do the number crunching to ensure that our community will benefit, not the politics at the Board.

*3. Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?*

I believe Ridgeway Elementary should be preserved, retrofitted as Queen Mary has been. Ridgeway and Lonsdale should be designated as "primary" buildings on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage list. If elected I will put the motion forward. You may count on my support, I hope not only by words but by action as well.

## **Vickie Vinaric**

### *1. What is your position on the value of heritage buildings in North Vancouver?*

I studied architecture at McGill University and have always had an affinity for all buildings. I believe the value of heritage buildings is very high. Heritage buildings speak to us of a time passed, reflect the materials, styles and craftsmanship of the time they were built, and remind neighborhoods of their roots. And many heritage buildings are extremely beautiful -- the level of detail and care with which they were built is not often matched today.

### *2. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver, such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary?*

I am very much in favour of preserving buildings which have intrinsic heritage value. Queen Mary Elementary and Ridgeway Elementary are both examples of schools which were built carefully and well. Lonsdale Elementary has a wonderful facade but the building behind the facade does not have any elements that would give it architectural heritage value. In fact, the building itself was not used for classrooms for students for several years. When the issue of development of the Lonsdale site arises, which I believe will happen in the next one or two years, it will be interesting to receive feedback from the City of North Vancouver, as well as Heritage societies like yours, to receive input on how to proceed. I believe in consultation with the community and gathering as much information as possible before making any decision.

### *3. Specifically, would you support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary, a "primary" building on the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Register, over replacement in the provincial seismic upgrading program?*

I do support efforts to preserve Ridgeway Elementary. The school board received a presentation by the architect engaged by the school district, Mark Ehman of Downs Archambault and Partners on Stage 1 of the Feasibility Study. He has outlined all possible options for the school board in Ridgeway's renovation and seismic upgrading along with the requirements of the City of North Vancouver and the requirements of the City's Heritage Inventory. I believe we can come up with a solution that balances the Heritage requirements and that fits into the Capital budget the School Board has received from the province (which is only \$11,000,000 as opposed to the full upgrade cost which is in the order of \$21,000,000). Also, we have to renovate to a degree that meets the National Building Code.

This is going to be a very challenging project. As above, I believe in consultation with all stakeholders prior to a decision. I am confident we will succeed in balancing the needs of our students and staff for a safe, seismically upgraded school, along with the preservation of Ridgeway Elementary. I am committed to open and cordial dialogue and working towards an acceptable solution for the whole community.

*Note: The following candidate did not respond: John Harvey*