



NORTH SHORE HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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

www.northshoreheritage.org

BC Society Registration No. S-49292

DISTRICT 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?

1. MAYOR

Richard Walton

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

Having graduated from Classical Studies at UBC, having spent seven years as a tour guide in Europe and having taught history for nine years, I have an ongoing keen interest in history and its value in appreciating the culture and landscape we live in. North Vancouver is not an old community but has a fascinating early history and metamorphosis from sawmills, farms and isolated homes into a cohesive suburban community. I place a very high value on heritage buildings and would like to see us work closely with private owners to encourage these properties to be preserved and where possible improved.

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

People take pride in their heritage home if they are tied into a network of other home owners and if there is recognition of the value of their work and its importance. Receiving advice from District staff and public acknowledgement for their labours of love is small price to pay for the level of public enjoyment and pride that Heritage properties provide. I would think a tax credit of some sort might be possible against value put into Heritage properties. I think it is likely done in some areas in North America and I would be open to reviewing practices elsewhere.

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

I am interested in all ideas for how increases in funding might be obtained. There are various government grants and charitable organizations that might be potential sources of funding and a larger role might be played by the District in the sourcing and writing of grant applications.

4. What is your position on preserving historic school buildings in North Vancouver?

The core of old schools left, Ridgeway, Queen Mary, Lonsdale and Capilano are treasures, but public safety should not be compromised. Hopefully these structures' risk of collapse from earthquakes can be minimized so their lives can be indefinitely extended. These buildings have tremendous presence and the few remaining links from before the Great War. There are so few stone and brick buildings left on the North Shore and these buildings are majestic in size and rich in our history.

2. COUNCILLOR

Janice Harris

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

I have always placed a high value on heritage buildings in North Vancouver and have consistently supported preservation strategies over the last 15 years as a District councillor (one year of which I served as District mayor.)

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

One of the most effective ways of maintaining the District's built heritage is through heritage infill redevelopment (allowing companion home(s) to be built beside the heritage home on the same lot, in order to finance the rehabilitation of the heritage home).

I am also a strong supporter of the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings including: the soon-to-be completed 1920's Lynn Valley School as the new North Vancouver archives, as well as the Mollie Nye House (Lynn Valley) and the Christie House (North Lonsdale), two distinctive heritage homes adapted for community uses. (The Christie House was purchased by the District and the Mollie Nye House was renovated and given to the District by the developer of the Sunrise seniors housing complex.) The District, through its Heritage Commission also recognizes individual heritage homeowners through a well-received awards program, and publicizes community heritage walks during Heritage Week.

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

I prefer heritage infill, developer contributions to heritage preservation and leveraging federal heritage grants over tax breaks at this time because of the District's current fiscal constraints.

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

Although I am running for reelection in the District of North Vancouver, I favour the preservation and full seismic upgrading of both the Ridgeway and Queen Mary elementary schools. Both schools are significant heritage buildings and we would lose a great deal of North Vancouver's architectural history, and public viewing pleasure, if these two schools were to be torn down.

Robin Hicks

No response

Mike Little

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

Heritage Homes are an integral part of the retelling of our communities past. As such they are very valuable to me and hopefully to the communities that host them. I also see their restoration and preservation as a fantastic investment for home owners. Studies in Oak Bay, Victoria, New Westminster and the older portions of Vancouver indicate that restored heritage districts rise in value at a faster rate than neighbouring areas.

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

I would bring my experience from five years as the Historian of the Heritage Commission and three years as the Chair into my council work. I have been a major part of bringing our heritage register in line with the Federal guidelines so that our homeowners can take advantage of federal resources in future programs. I have also already been keenly involved in the establishment of a Heritage Foundation to serve as an arms-length non-profit organization that would administer granting programs relating to Heritage projects, and I hope that your organization can play a role in that body.

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

I have actively worked to increase heritage preservation funding including all three forms of incentives mentioned. I have increased the Heritage Commission's budget throughout my term in order to better promote Heritage awareness in the community and increase opportunities for Heritage homeowners. One program that will be in place shortly includes private sponsorship for renovation projects on designated homes.

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

As I look back on my time on the Heritage Commission the project that I am most proud of would have to be our suitable reuse plan for the Lynn Valley Elementary School. In order to save that school we had to work through the planning department to find a new resident that would enhance and be enhanced by this impressive building. Ridgeway and Queen Mary were built to be showcases of public architecture at their time, and they are still very impressive today. As a councillor I would work diligently to always ensure their maintenance and importance to our community.

Doug Mackay-Dunn

No response

Lisa Muri

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

I think they are invaluable, too often we in the GVRD, get rid of old, to build new, I am not one for great change, so maintaining our heritage is important

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

We need to look at incentives to property owners and ways of incorporating old with new

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

I would look at it.

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

This council has already said the rezoning of institutional land is not an option, I feel once the land is gone, it is forever, I would not support redevelopment on these lands, for any reason.

Alan Nixon

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

I value them highly and will do all in my power as a Councillor to ensure their protection, preservation and hopeful restoration.

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

My initiative to create the District of North Vancouver Heritage Foundation that will be brought before Council on November 7th should go a long way to preserving our Heritage Buildings in the District.

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

Along with the enabling legislation, my initiative provides for up to \$40,000 in seed funding for the foundation. I would hope the charitable status of the foundation will see a lot of private sector and public donations flow to the effort.

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

My unequivocal support for the preservation and restoration of the old Lynn Valley Elementary school to become our Archives Building is one example of how we can find adaptive re-uses of these historic and irreplaceable school buildings.

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?

3. SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Ginny Diebolt

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

I believe that the respect shown and value given by a community to its heritage sites relates directly to the strength and good character of that community.

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

It would be my personal wish to preserve historic school buildings such as Ridgeway Elementary, Queen Mary Elementary and Lonsdale Elementary.

As a trustee, it is my responsibility to ensure that school facilities are kept safe for students and that any upgrades or changes to our facilities does not jeopardize their safety. I know also that the Ministry of Education will not fund additional costs to preserve heritage buildings and that the school district cannot fund extra costs.

You may recall that the Ministry of Education would not fund the restoration of Lynn Valley Elementary. The 1920 building was sold to the DNV for \$1, to become the DNV Archives, and a new school was built adjacent to it.

Before making any decisions about our historic school buildings I believe it is important to explore all options by communicating and consulting with our 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 support full and open dialogue with our community. Good decisions are made when there is a shared understanding of the issues and challenges, and when together we have explored all options.

Sandy Fleming

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

I believe heritage buildings reflect positively on the sense of community. They provide a linkage with previous generations and should generate interest in students and the public at large in the background history of North Vancouver. To achieve this, requires that various agencies (School Board, City/District, etc.) also acknowledge their value and promote them.

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 a structural engineer and understand the complications regarding keeping historical buildings in use given current seismic, fire and other building codes. It has been suggested to me that the cost of seismic upgrading to Ridgeway may be quite reasonable based on Lynn Valley since it was built by the same contractor at roughly the same time. However Lonsdale is a much more challenging (expensive) case because it is wood frame construction (I have been told) and I do not know about Queen Mary. I would like to see these buildings preserved but, as schools, the Ministry capital funding formula does not take into account any extraordinary costs associated with seismic upgrading and other historical preservation compared to a new building. That is a major challenge for the School Board -- trading off extraordinary preservation costs against space or other amenity benefits available in a new structure.

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?

Since this building has broader community value than simply a school building, this discussion should include the City and possible "top-up funding" from the municipality. Also, there may be federal or other funding available to other non-governmental agencies (not-for-profit societies) that could be accessed to help pay for any additional costs to maintain these historic buildings. I would favour looking into these options.

Pat Heal

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

Heritage buildings add a real historical value to our communities. It is important to keep sites of historical value so they can be seen and shared by our community. Heritage buildings are part of who we are and who we were.

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

School buildings are also of historical value but because they are public school facilities the upgrade and capital funding comes from Victoria in capital spending envelope. Most times there is not a recognition by the provincial government of a need to incorporate the history within this envelope. We can only hope to work with the municipalities and communities to incorporate what heritage value we can from the sites. In my mind Queen Mary and Ridgeway are better examples of something worth trying to save. The school board cannot commit to this on its own though.

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?

When one becomes a trustee one pledges an oath to uphold the school act and legislation. Our first priority has to be the safety of our students, that is our mandate. As a trustee I would be remiss if I did not hold the children and their safety first. If a way could be found to do both I would be willing to explore it keeping in mind the very real fiscal restraints.

Jane Thornthwaite

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

Heritage buildings are our culture, our past and our identity. One of the things I value most about travelling abroad is visiting so many cities who pride themselves on the upkeep of their many heritage buildings. These cities spend the time and the resources on maintenance of these buildings because they are viewed as part of their identity and are therefore worth preserving.

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 fully in support of preserving these magnificent buildings rather than replacing them. These buildings are historical treasures.

Although I have driven by, and played soccer on some of their fields, I have not been directly involved in any of the discussions of preserving these specific buildings. If elected, I would be pleased to research this topic fully. I recognize that the issue likely comes down to the cost of the maintenance and upgrading of the building vs demolishing it, building a new one, or selling the property. Obviously I am not in support of housing students in a school that is unsafe for any reason, but I am interested in evaluating the costs of maintaining and preserving these buildings - keeping in mind their heritage value. I would also like to solicit input from the community at large.

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 am definitely in support of preserving Ridgeway Elementary over replacement, but it must be properly maintained and it must be deemed safe for our students. I feel that there should be open dialogue between the School Board and the City of North Vancouver, and since it is a "primary" building on the Heritage Register, it deserves several levels of government funding in addition to the support from the School Board. If elected, I will work towards this open communication and take a leadership role in obtaining other sources of funding to support these architectural treasures.