



NORTH SHORE HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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BC Society Registration No. S-49292

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER

ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE: NOVEMBER 2008

COUNCIL

1. Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?
2. Why are heritage buildings important for the community?
3. What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?
4. What are the best responses to these challenges?
5. How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?

RESPONSES

Roger Bassam

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

Yes, councilors may serve a three year term but the Council is actually a continuum of the community's leadership. It is important for Council and our citizens to know our history and how we have arrived at our current state. This understanding helps us make better decisions about how we should evolve as a community and how we may avoid some of the mistakes of the past. Preserving key elements of our heritage makes it much easier to teach our history to the next generation of North Vancouverites.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

They are visible, physical reminders of our history and add character to our neighborhoods.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

Money would be the obvious challenge, particularly in bringing heritage buildings up to modern code requirements. Seismic upgrades and modern energy consumption standards are difficult and expensive to retrofit in heritage buildings. There also is the need for storage and archive space for a growing collection of heritage items.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

The likely source of new money will be private partners and donors who are interested in heritage preservation. The District can help raise the awareness of the North Shore Heritage Preservation Society as a means of helping to attract this new funding. We may also look at funding through charity events such as the Mayors' Golf Tournament. Funding in the current economic times will be a contentious issue but we must not turn our back on our history.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

I mentioned a couple of ideas above and would suggest we also need to lobby senior governments to preserve important historical buildings and sites. I note that Heritage Canada recently identified North Vancouver's Shipyards as a National Heritage site.

Peter Birrell

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

I have owned and love heritage homes, the old buildings on the north shore that have some interesting designs and character are buildings to save. It is a shame that so many of our great buildings have been torn down. I still cannot believe that the Versatile shipyard, has, for the most part, been completely destroyed. I am sure the new market will be very nice but it would have been nicer if more original buildings were left intact. Thank goodness you are on the ball and helping save some of our heritage (Europe takes pride in their historical buildings. We tear ours down to make bigger buildings. Thank you)

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

These buildings let our children know where we have grown from, what times were like 50-100 years ago. I have a great old house for sale on the Olympic peninsula which is 110 years old, has 12 foot ceilings and is over 10,000 a fabulous old home (www.bedandbreakfastforsale.net) called the Aberdeen mansion. Absolutely beautiful.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

People not taking care of their older homes and letting them fall into disrepair so there is no chance of the home being put on the heritage list. Some people feel if the home is on the heritage list, it might restrict the sale of the property.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

Be proactive and approach the owners of these homes with tax concessions if they keep the home in good original repair. Some of these repairs could be write offs against their property taxes.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

There are, I understand, a number of municipal committees working together right now on various projects. There would be just another committee to liaise with the provincial and federal government. I am surprised there is not a group set up already to do this.

John Fair – Did Not Respond

Robin Hicks

1. Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?

I regard it as a priority, but must be also matched with other District priorities, particularly in terms of funding in these uncertain times. This means that we must together search for innovative solutions and financing shared with other sources such as Provincial or Federal grants, Foundation funding and private sector donations.

2. Why are heritage buildings important for the community?

Having been raised in the UK I understand the value of heritage sites and buildings in reminding us of the past, providing a connection to our ancestors and also providing a focus for community values and respect for all.

3. What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?

I think mainly financial as most owners of heritage property regard it as a personal asset whose value must normally be maximized. Also the cost of preservation and maintenance is generally high. A heritage designation can also be accompanied by an onus or sacrifice by the owner who if not independently wealthy, can suffer hardship. It also can place the District in a liability situation if a designation causes a decline in property value.

4. What are the best responses to these challenges?

Education and promotion and general support from Government.

5. How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?

As I mentioned above, innovative solutions and support from senior levels of government. The Department of National Heritage should also be lobbied for more funding and to become more proactive. The National Trust in England is an example of what can and should be done to preserve buildings, contents and sites.

Mike Little

1. Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?

It's a priority for me. I served on the Community Heritage Advisory Committee for three years as the Historian and two years as the Chair. I have also served for three years on the North Vancouver Museum and Archives board of directors. Heritage services are very important to me and I will always advance Heritage issues at the council table.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

Heritage buildings are an integral part of the retelling of our communities past. For instance, in Lynn Valley we have been creating a community identity by adding features that tell the story of its pioneering past such as Pioneer Square , the horse trough, and the Skid road story. The new Library's windows include stories and pictures from our history.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

Heritage homes are typically built on larger format lots which have been identified by developers as having subdivision potential. Once targeted, these Heritage assets become quite vulnerable to sale and demolition.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

Supporting Heritage Designation, funding incentive programs to help Heritage homeowners make that decision, and recognizing significant Heritage assets publicly with plaques and ceremonies.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

In all of my council work I have sought partnerships with other agencies. That spirit of cooperation must continue. Specifically, we need to work with the North Vancouver community foundation to provide a long term source of donor funding for Heritage projects. Perhaps we could seek some BC 150 funding to put the school bell back on the old Lynn Valley Elementary School .

Doug MacKay-Dunn

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

Yes, however there are a number of other matters such as the infrastructure deficit, which distract.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

They form a connection with our past and prepare us for our future

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

I do not believe that the public understand the need for heritage preservation.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

Educate members of the new Council through a workshop and then, identify buildings which should be designated in order of priority. This process would inform the discussion.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

Ref: # 4 this is the first step. Your society can play a very important role in achieving co-operation and increasing the profile of heritage preservation. A high profiled issue is much easier to sell to senior government and the community at large.

David McKee

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

Yes.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

Historic buildings give the community a connection to the past and also set the tone for a neighbourhood. This is especially the case for larger institutional buildings which by virtue of their size, have a larger influence.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

A push for larger houses results in older houses being torn down. This affects the landscaping which is part of heritage as well. Also, many people in the community are not aware of the subtleties or the extent of different types of architecture so don't perceive the problem.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

There needs to be more awareness around the variation in architecture, specifically the types of houses and buildings that have been identified by the NSHPS. Rather than tear down old houses they could be renovated and expanded with in line with the exiting style. For people looking for extra space, some areas of the community may be suitable for inclusion of carriage homes.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations, and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

The various groups need to work together to raise the profile and importance of the variety of architectural styles. This could involve mobile displays in public places, tours, and possibly events centred around some of the buildings. By-laws can play a large part but without further investigation I will not suggest any specifically.

Lisa Muri

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

Absolutely.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

To maintain the character of our community, and to identify us from other communities in regards to our history. The past is precious.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

High cost of land, economics and willing owners and developers.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

Zoning bylaw, more heritage designation on properties, developer and owner incentives.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

Continue communication, identify areas for designation, seek funds to offset some costs, create incentives.

Alan Nixon

1. *Do you view heritage preservation as a priority for council?*

I do believe it should be a priority for Council. In response to my motion the Council of the District of North Vancouver has, in the past, indicated such support by instructing staff to establish a District of North Vancouver Heritage Foundation. We are still waiting.

2. *Why are heritage buildings important for the community?*

Heritage Buildings are important for the community as they serve as a tangible reminder of our past as well as reminding us of the people who were the basis of the early formation of our communities.

3. *What are the main challenges facing heritage preservation in our district?*

- There is a very high cost associated with Heritage Preservation because of the very high market values of the land underlying such candidates.
- There is a wide-spread lack of understanding on the part of Property Owners as to what constitutes "Heritage Preservation" and what "Heritage Designation" implies.
- There is a sense among property owners that the "Heritage Preservation" process can lead to a loss of value of their underlying property. Accordingly, there is reluctance on the part of property owners to seek official designation.

4. *What are the best responses to these challenges?*

- Education is the key! Concrete examples of preserved structures and proof offered that they have not suffered loss in their market values would be very helpful.
- More Heritage Tours sponsored or supported by the municipal governments would serve to highlight the successes.
- Income Tax deductions for expenses related to Heritage Preservation would serve as incentives to property owners.
- More recognition of the efforts of Property Owners to "preserve" their, and thus, our Heritage.
- Property Tax rebates to encourage preservation efforts.

5. *How might municipalities work more closely with others -- the community, organizations and senior government -- for heritage preservation?*

Municipal governments need to recognize that non-profit community organizations are better suited to carry on the work of Heritage Preservation as the members of these organizations are passionate about their work; are prepared to put in the hours and effort necessary at little or no cost; and are best equipped to lever additional funding from the public and corporate sectors. All money spent by municipalities on Heritage Preservation should be directed to one specific, local organization which has demonstrated the best track record of success.

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?
3. How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?

RESPONSES

Holly Back

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

After visiting England last year I came home with a much bigger and better appreciation for heritage buildings. There is a huge value in heritage buildings, Lynn Valley School is fabulous.

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

As I said Lynn Valley School is fabulous, we have to protect our history.

3. *How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?*

Through zoning and development incentives.

Ian Campbell

I would like you to know that I am on the advisory council for Historica Foundation which is a National organization committed to preserving, protecting, and teaching local, regional, and national

history and culture. The focus is on school age children many of whom I've had the pleasure of lecturing and listening to nationally. This helps me in looking at our local richness and heritage starting with the ancient Coast Salish spanning to present values as a community. Thank you for the work your group is achieving. Sekyu Siyam-Chief Ian Campbell

Barry Forward

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

It is extremely important that we honour our history, and preserve the few buildings of historic value that we have. We are such a new community (100 years is nothing historically) and our history, however limited, should be preserved through our civic and residential structures as best we can.

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

A difficult question when the provincial government has not increased the NV School Board's capital budget for eight years. However, we as trustees have to stand up for our community and fight to preserve schools like Ridgeway and Queen Mary that hold historic value to the community.

3. How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?

Be as innovative as possible with any re-development plans, including the need for seismic upgrades. And work with the City and District to ensure a North Vancouver-wide plan is in place to preserve our Heritage buildings.

Cyndi Gerlach

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

I love heritage buildings. They represent living history. A value cannot be placed on these buildings as they are invaluable and I want what few we have to stay around for generations to come.

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

We need to preserve our historic school buildings. They represent living history and if we tear them down, they are gone forever. We are a relatively young society and we need to keep our buildings alive and well.

3. How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?

I believe that we need to be innovative thinkers and look outside the box for ideas on raising the capitol that is needed to preserve our buildings. One idea that I have is creating a foundation that will raise money to help offset the costs of education and capitol maintenance. This is just an idea, but I believe an idea worth looking into.

Matt Kadioglu – Did Not Respond

Franci Stratton

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

I believe heritage buildings are most definitely valued in any community as a visual reminder of the history of the community both culturally and architecturally. The preservation of these buildings whether as a complete building or a façade makes for an aesthetically pleasing building when mixing old and new architectural styles. I believe we must retain our heritage buildings, and look at the significance that is has in connecting us to the past through partnerships both the City and District of North Vancouver.

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

When considering heritage preservation, I believe we need to address the issue of safety. Providing students with a safe environment for learning is a high priority. Some of our heritage buildings are nearly 100 years old and seem to need seismic/structural upgrading. The School District has done a financial cost analysis, a structural assessment and a feasibility study on Ridgeway Elementary to determine the cost of keeping the heritage components of Ridgeway. In order to preserve and incorporate the heritage aspects into a new school they need to come up with the difference which the Ministry won't fund. The School District has committed to the restoration and committed to additional funding through density trade-offs at the Lonsdale School site. As with the Lynn Valley project a few years ago we need to find ways to preserve our historical sites by working with our community partners, the City and the District of North Vancouver. In terms of sustainability and green initiatives it makes sense that we would want to reuse the heritage aspects of the building to lower the impact on the environment.

3. How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?

I would like to see some of the Lonsdale building, which I believe is happening, re-used for its historical value and blended with in the new plans for the site.

I value the work that the Ridgeway Heritage Committee has done over the past few years advocating for the need to replace Ridgeway School and restoring the heritage component at the same time within the plans for a new school. Those of us who have been listening and involved at the School District level know that the Ministry will fund a new school minus the additional funds required to complete the heritage component. The School District is faced with coming up with the balance to keep the heritage aspects of the building.

We need more advocacy at the Ministry level and we need direct contact with the Premier, requesting for Heritage funding now that funds have been allocated to the Vancouver School district through the new, Neighbourhood's of Learning, pilot project.

We need to get this project going; we need to get the community at large behind it, to ensure the safety of our students and the preservation of our heritage as we build plans for the next generation of schools in the North Vancouver.

Jane Thornthwaite

I was involved, and actively lobbied for, the Ridgeway project that has now been approved by the School District and City of NV. I took the time to meet with members of the Heritage committee (one of whom, Linda Buchanan, is now running for School Trustee in the City of NV), went for a tour of both Ridgway and Queen Mary, attended the community meetings, and supported the partnership agreement in order to make this happen. I realize that the Ministry of Education is not in the "heritage" business, however, I believe with partnerships such as this between governmental partners, we can make things happen.

Please check out my website, in particular the Trustee reports that refer to Ridgeway and Queen Mary.

My record speaks for itself. Please include this preamble if you are going to publish anything.

Linda Williams

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

My grandfather was a retired city planner, my father and uncle are retired developers. I'm a third generation Vancouverite and to quote my dad..."when we built homes we built them to last." And yes plenty of theirs are still standing. We need to celebrate our ancestors and their contributions to our development and preserve our history.

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

A walk down memory lane, when I was 17 or 19, I remember making signs and protesting down Burrard to Georgia to save a church that was threatened. This was in the late 70's early 80's. A while ago. I have witnessed many changes but I'd still walk today if I thought we were tearing down structures that could be restored and given back to the community to use and appreciate. Our children deserve to know where they came from.

3. How can North Vancouver best work to protect these buildings in the context of provincial spending programs?

Encourage sponsorships from the private sector to alleviate some of the costs associated with up-grading or renovating the structures.

Work with the West Vancouver, District and City Councils to encourage them to continue supporting the Heritage Foundation, work with our community partners, private sector, and encourage donation programs. Look outside our borders and research surrounding communities efforts and maybe adopt some ideas for our own use.