

HERITAGE OTTAWA ASKS THE CANDIDATES

MAYORAL CANDIDATES | OTTAWA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2018

JIM WATSON, Hamid Alakozai, **Ahmed Bouragba**, Bernard Couchman, Clive Doucet, Joey Drouin, Ryan Lythall, Craig MacAulay, Bruce McConville, **Michael Pastien**, Moises Schachtler, James T. Sheahan

Heritage Ottawa posed the following five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

Names of the candidates who responded are distinguished in bold.

Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Ahmed Bouragba:

I don't believe that the demolition was by neglect, it was highly calculated to destroy the most valuable heritage by the big corporations and irresponsible developers. I will not support City's expropriation on Bank Street, its unfair.

Michael Pastien:

Officially Designated Heritage Properties should initially undergo thorough realistic life expectancy upkeep priority assessments, plus aptly be followed up by regular mandatory pragmatic timely sustainability compliance inspections. I would support the expropriation of architecturally and historically worthy Somerset House if it is structurally and sustainably sound longterm.

Magee House on Wellington St was given Heritage protection in 1996, yet leaking water badly eroded the building's mortar to the point where the left wall collapsed, and it took the city several weeks to finally decide to rightly demolish the remaining structure. Google views of the edifice show that its façade was decrepit, and the right wall bricks under the roof were in clearly ramshackle dangerous shape...yet luckily didn't collapse and kill anyone.

The 'Pearson' building on Rideau St epitomized the type of edifice that didn't architecturally merit a Heritage Protected designation.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Ahmed Bouragba:

Absolutely yes, this is a moral question, the program will save our heritage for generations to come.

Michael Pastien:

Yes, but the work should pragmatically be done by Ottawa certified fiscal-conscious Heritage Restoration Experts.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Ahmed Bouragba:

If the City is free from dictatorship, and the City Councils are serious and caring people they must respect the community opinion.

Michael Pastien:

Mutual transparency is vital throughout Ottawa, and a community vote on major decisions, should be a consideration...to deter the potential emergence of misguided individuals and special interest groups, from hijacking districts for personal vanity or fiscal gain.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Ahmed Bouragba:

If the property is part of the Heritage, the owners should not have the absolute power to demolish based on their personal interest only, the City must provide alternative solutions to them for example by renting, buying or replacing the space in order to encourage the owners to keep the heritage protected.

Michael Pastien:

60 day notices of 'intent' to demolish Heritage Register Listed edifices are adequate for the city to judiciously render timely responses. Many edifices erected in recent decades, and ongoingly so...will ultimately merit Heritage Register designation through some sort of logical criteria processes, en route to being transparently judged by the community as worthy of a Formally Protected Listing.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and

Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Ahmed Bouragba:

I prefer to refer it back to committees for further consultations with the residents before a final approval as I can't trust Watson's administration which was entirely influenced by developers.

Michael Pastien:

I've ongoingly added online feedback to Ottawa's iconic Château design approval stage processes. The most recent proposal was still too harshly unlike the original building. The entire project (other than transparently fostering public opinions) has so far 'gauchely' been misdirected from the onset...and City Council's recent decision to delegate final Heritage and Design approval to City Staff, equates it to washing its hands of this vitally historic matter. Any revised Heritage application should first be ratified by Committees, as per normal Ontario Heritage Act procedure, plus the general public...before final Council approval! Officially Designated Heritage Properties should initially undergo thorough realistic life expectancy upkeep priority assessments, plus aptly be followed up by regular mandatory pragmatic timely sustainability compliance inspections. I would support the expropriation of architecturally and historically worthy Somerset House if it is structurally and sustainably sound longterm.

Magee House on Wellington St was given Heritage protection in 1996, yet leaking water badly eroded the building's mortar to the point where the left wall collapsed, and it took the city several weeks to finally decide to rightly demolish the remaining structure. Google views of the edifice show that its façade was decrepit, and the right wall bricks under the roof were in clearly ramshackle dangerous shape...yet luckily didn't collapse and kill anyone.

The 'Pearson' building on Rideau St epitomized the type of edifice that didn't architecturally merit a Heritage Protected designation.

WARD 1: ORLÉANS CANDIDATES

Rick Bédard, Toby Bossert, **Mireille Brownhill**, **Guy Desroches**, Diego Elizondo, Dina Epale, Doug Feltmate, **Jarrod Goldsmith**, Miranda Gray, Geoffrey Nicholas Griplas, Catherine Kitts, Shannon Kramer, **Matthew Luloff**, Qamar Masood, Louise Soyez, Kevin Tetreault, Don Yetman

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QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Guy Desroches:

This problem is widespread, The City needs to look at these cases in its infancy and apply the law where need be. The neglect and decomposition is both the responsibility of the owner and City for not acting sooner. A take over by the City should take place at the beginning and we should create by-laws to give us the mandate.

Mireille Brownhill:

I believe our heritage resources are key to remembering our past. The City should take a more active role in ensuring adequate upkeep and occupancy of heritage buildings. I believe it is possible to encourage heritage property owners to develop and maintain these buildings in their original glory through funding programs as well as additional taxes on vacant buildings.

The City has a responsibility to avoid demolition by neglect by assisting owners to fund the costly renovation projects often needed to upkeep these buildings. I can easily draw parallels with the City's Brownfield Grant Program; this program has encouraged infill development and reduced the need to sprawl. A similar Heritage Grant Program would likely encourage developers to retrofit heritage buildings for modern uses and ensure they remain a charming part of our streetscapes.

Additionally, a Vacancy Tax would also be helpful in encouraging occupancy in heritage buildings and ensure proper redevelopment. Heritage buildings are much more likely to survive when they are occupied. I would not rule out expropriation as a last resort, but for this to be a legitimate option, I believe the steps noted above must be implemented first.

Jarrold Goldsmith:

The deterioration of heritage buildings by neglect needs to be addressed by Council. I would strive to enact stronger measures to entice owners to repair and resolve building neglect. Enforcing cumulative monetary fines is one thing, but more needs to be done. I do support the City expropriating heritage buildings as long as it's economically feasible. It's possible, however, that some owners are simply waiting for the city to expropriate, but measures should be put into place to offer market value minus estimated costs to repair or demolish. In the case of demolish, the City should be able to work with developers to build new development, taking into consideration heritage aspects and the 'look' of the surrounding neighborhood in consultation with the public.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Guy Desroches:

Yes, the funding by the City and other levels of government should be implemented for the rehabilitation of the Heritage building. This is in order to preserve these beautiful buildings at their original design.

Mireille Brownhill:

I would be supportive of the City implementing such a program. As noted above, I believe the City has a role in encouraging heritage property owners to develop and maintain our heritage resources. Heritage resources serve all residents of the City. They foster pride in our City while connecting us to our past. In

Ward 1 – Orléans, we have many heritage buildings, which blend with modern additions to create a main street with a village feel. This would not be possible without our heritage resources.

Most heritage buildings in Ward 1 – Orléans do not have status. Back in 2011, the Vinette Silo gained status when it was threatened to be demolished to make way for residential development. If implemented, only designated buildings would be eligible. When elected, I will work with my provincial counterparts and staff to ensure heritage buildings in Orléans have the proper designation. I commend the work of la Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orléans (SFOPHO) for identifying buildings of interest.

Finally, it is essential to recognize that, in suburban and rural areas, heritage resources extend to landscapes. I believe it is imperative to maintain the agricultural nature of the current location of Orléans Fruit Farm and other field views and consider these as heritage resources. The Province of Quebec has acted in this direction, and I believe it is essential for us to explore this possibility as well.

Jarrold Goldsmith:

Absolutely support. The Heritage Property Tax Relief Program is a great example of resources that can be allotted to assist owners with keeping their privately-owned heritage buildings in proper order. I would like to see programs such as this become standard options for repair/rehabilitation of properties.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Guy Desroches:

The local community has to be careful and not influence decision-making. I see this as benefiting from the designation.

Mireille Brownhill:

Although Ward 1 – Orléans is not the host to a Heritage Conservation District, I believe that everyone has a role in considering development applications, especially those of a heritage nature. I trust City staff in adequately assessing heritage applications. However, the local community does hold certain expertise concerning their neighbourhood, especially in Orléans where many descendants of the founding families still reside.

As it stands, residents can make their opinion known via a letter to the Committee Coordinator or by a public delegation at committee. I don't believe this is adequate consultation. In areas with established Heritage Conservation Districts, I think the City should actively engage with residents to create heritage conservation guidelines specific to each area, which staff will take into account while assessing heritage applications. These guidelines should be updated appropriately as the neighbourhood evolves.

Jarrold Goldsmith:

Local community consultation with stakeholders, associations and the general public should absolutely be a priority. There will always be competing needs between developers and local communities. It's how such communication is organized that is key. Moderated discussion with a willingness to work together should be the goal for all engaged parties. City Staff should take into consideration the needs and wants of people who may be impacted within the district.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Guy Desroches:

We live in an older City and in order to keep our cultural heritage, the list should not have an opt-out option. Was the property purchased before designation or after? I would recommend financing option for renovation with the city and other levels of government.

Mireille Brownhill:

I don't think it's appropriate to exempt property from the list at the owner's discretion. It is ultimately unfair to those who cannot afford to take the time to contest the inclusion of their property on the Register. We must also consider heritage resources as bringing value to the community as a whole. Therefore, allowing these exemptions would go against the public good. However, there should be an appeal process available during which a property owner can argue City staff's assessment of their property.

There has not been sufficient information shared regarding this project. Some property owners think that participating in the program will complicate processes to modify or renovate their properties. Some assume that it equals to a Part IV heritage status, which is not the case. The City could clearly state out the implications of this program by hiring additional staff to answer questions about the program and proactively reaching out to community associations to explain the program; this way property owners might be more receptive to the idea. Overall, I believe the City's Heritage Register is an important project that will serve future generations well.

Jarrod Goldsmith:

I do not believe that owners should have the option to unilaterally be exempted from inclusion on the Heritage Registry. The needs of property owners must be taken into account. The City should work with them to provide options, opinions and review all available resources that could be applicable. If there is enough demand to request additional means not already covered within the municipal jurisdiction, I am open to addressing such options.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Guy Desroches:

The older Chateau Laurier was never built to have modern looks today. I am not in favor of the expansion, as it does not keep a time-sensitive look to the hotel. Counsel gave it back to qualified people to make a recommendation and they will have final approval to ratify the plan.

Mireille Brownhill:

The Château Laurier saga is complex. Overall, I don't approve of the latest design brought to Committee and Council. I believe the design could better reflect the original style while maintaining a modern feel. While designing the addition for Château Laurier, designers should look at the Museum of Nature, which was overall enhanced by the renovations while keeping its historical feel.

Delegating the final heritage and design approval to City staff was perhaps misguided. Although heritage staff are possibly the most qualified to discuss the project with the applicant, I believe the final say must come from the people, via their representative. As Councillor, I would hold a public consultation with residents of Ward 1 – Orléans to ensure I accurately relay their thoughts to other members of the Committee and Council. Seeing as the Château Laurier is a vital heritage resource in Ottawa, residents should have had a say on the final design.

Jarrold Goldsmith:

Any proposed development to the Château Laurier hotel must take into consideration the unique cultural landscape of one of Canada's most iconic landmarks. I do not agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval to City Staff. I would have preferred to see a design that incorporates more the legacy of the original building. While it's understandable that developers wish to leave a modern lasting impression, more could have been done to honor the unique historical design.

WARD 2: INNES CANDIDATES

Laura Dudas, Donna Leith-Gudbranson, Tammy Lynch, François Trépanier

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NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 3: BARRHAVEN CANDIDATES

JAN HARDER, Franklin Epape, Ahmad Malgarai, Atiq Qureshi, Hadi Wess

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WARD 4: KANATA NORTH CANDIDATES

Philip Bloedow, David Gourlay, Matt Muirhead, Lorne Neufeldt, **Jenna Sudds**

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WARD 5: WEST CARLETON-MARCH CANDIDATES

ELI EL-CHANTIRY, James Parsons, Judi Varga-Toth

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WARD 6: STITTSVILLE CANDIDATES

SHAD QADRI, **Glen Gower**

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QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Glen Gower:

Yes, the city should take a more active role in preventing demolition by neglect. We have at least two examples in Stittsville of buildings that are at risk -- the Bradley-Craig barn and Boyd House, in addition to many more across the city. One key initiative would be creating policies and protocols that ensure a quick and effective response to identified issues of neglect, to compel owners of property to fix deficiencies quickly before they get out of hand.

As for Somerset House: In general, expropriation should be used only as a last resort, but in this case would be appropriate given long-term neglect and lack of action on the part of the building's owner.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Glen Gower:

I do support this approach. Three years ago I attended a talk by Bruce Elliott (hosted by Heritage Ottawa) where he gave an overview of the various tools that Canadian municipalities have used to encourage heritage rehabilitation. Several cities, including Charlottetown, Halifax and Vancouver, have tax incentive programs in place that have been effective in encouraging building owners to make improvements to heritage assets.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Glen Gower:

Yes. Local community opinion should be an important factor to consider in any planning application, in balance with other stakeholders.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Glen Gower:

In the last year we've seen examples of piecemeal removal of properties from the register, which to me is problematic. Many residents and property owners do not understand the implications of the heritage registry or heritage designation. It's up to councillors, city staff, and heritage leaders to provide more leadership and education in this area.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Glen Gower:

The latest design for the proposed addition is still a great disappointment to me and to many residents in Ottawa. I do not support delegating approvals to staff, given the intense public interest in this development and the prominent location of the building.

WARD 7: BAY CANDIDATES

Erica Dath, **Don Dransfield**, **Theresa Kavanagh**, Marc Luger, Trevor Robinson

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Don Dransfield:

I believe the city should take an active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings. With regard to any specific project, such as Somerset House, I would need more information before making a decision regarding expropriation. For example, I do not know whether the fire damage at Somerset House is beyond the point where it could be reasonably restored, nor what the cost would be. I would prefer that the City acts more quickly so that Heritage buildings do not deteriorate to this condition in the first place.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Don Dransfield:

I believe this is a reasonable solution, and I would certainly be open to a program of tax incentives for owners to invest in their heritage properties.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Don Dransfield:

Yes, absolutely the community should have input into decisions regarding heritage approvals.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Don Dransfield:

I look forward to discussing this issue with your organization and with concerned residents to learn more about it.

QUESTION 5

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Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Don Dransfield:

I believe it should be returned to Council for final approval.

WARD 8: COLLEGE CANDIDATES

RICK CHIARELLI, Emilie Coyle, **Ryan Kennery**

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Ryan Kennery:

Demolition by neglect is frustrating and unacceptable. We need to make sure that property owners are respecting the City's rules in this regard.

The situation with Somerset House has been embarrassing. Every few years we see a new plan, which is harder and harder to believe will ever move forward. However, I still find it challenging to justify rewarding these (in)actions by using property tax dollars to take on the property.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Ryan Kennery:

I'm open to this idea and would like to see what the effects have been in other municipalities.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Ryan Kennery:

Community input should always be taken into consideration.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Ryan Kennery:

I'm hesitant to allow exemptions. We need to make sure that all parties are aware of the implications of being on the Register. This will require strong communication and education on the part of the city.

QUESTION 5

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Ryan Kennery:

This application has received significant public feedback and scrutiny, and I recognize how hard it is to get that addition right. I would prefer to have the next City Council see the result of the staff's review before the project moves forward.

WARD 9: KNOXDALE-MERIVALE CANDIDATES

KEITH EGLI, Warren Arshinoff, James Dean, Luigi Mangone, Peter Anthony Weber

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WARD 10: GLOUCESTER-SOUTHGATE CANDIDATES

DIANE DEANS, Alek Golijanin, Perry Sabourin, Sam Soucy, Robert Swaita

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WARD 11: BEACON HILL-CYRVILLE CANDIDATES

TIM TIERNEY, Michael Schurter

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WARD 12: RIDEAU-VANIER CANDIDATES

MATHIEU FLEURY, Salar Changiz, **Thierry Harris**, Matt Lowe

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Thierry Harris:

As the nation's capital, Ottawa is one of the most historically significant city in our country. We should be taking the lead on protecting this heritage for future generations. I support the city's expropriation for properties of historical significance. We should impose mandatory inspections and annual fees that escalate each year for derelict buildings and set limits for how long a property can be vacant before the City can expropriate.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Thierry Harris:

Yes, I would. In my platform for Heritage, which can be found at thierryharris.ca/heritage, I also propose the establishment of a Derelict Homes Fund which would provide loans and grants to property owners to bring vacant heritage properties back into use. In addition, I plan to explore other financial avenues such as grants and donations from private foundations to revive heritage properties for public use.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Thierry Harris:

Yes! The local community owns a piece of that heritage. There should be much more consultation with the community. We have fantastic heritage groups and community associations that work very hard to preserve these buildings for future generations and we are just not being listened to at city hall. I believe the current planning system is deeply flawed and I'm advocating to reform it so it can work for communities, not just developers with deep pockets.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Thierry Harris:

I think what doesn't work is to put the burden of heritage conservation on the property owner's shoulders. We need to work much more closely with property owners, offering compelling incentives and dedicating a lot more resources, such as increasing city staff dedicated to heritage conservation. When a property of significant heritage value goes on the market, the city should purchase it. The goal is to keep these buildings standing and right now, the Heritage Register is failing to accomplishing that.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Thierry Harris:

I strongly disagree with Council's decision and see it as a total lack of leadership. Château Laurier is among the most historically significant properties in Canada. Our elected officials must take their responsibilities and exercise full authority. I have read and agree with all of Heritage Ottawa's recommendations on this. There is too much at stake and we must take the lead in defending our heritage. It's an issue of national importance.

WARD 13: RIDEAU-ROCKCLIFFE CANDIDATES

TOBI NUSSBAUM, Peter Heyck

Heritage Ottawa posed five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

Names of the candidates who responded are distinguished in bold.

Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 14: SOMERSET CANDIDATES

CATHERINE MCKENNEY, Arthur David, Jerry Kovacs, Merdod Zopyrus

Heritage Ottawa posed five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

Names of the candidates who responded are distinguished in bold.

Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 15: KITCHISSIPPI CANDIDATES

JEFF LEIPER, Daniel Stringer

Heritage Ottawa posed five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

Names of the candidates who responded are distinguished in bold.

Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Jeff Leiper:

It is important for the City to take a more active (and proactive) role. Because action was not taken soon enough, we have just lost an important heritage building in my ward, the McGee House. There are too many examples of heritage by neglect in Ottawa, including Somerset House as well as Our Lady School in the Byward Market. The City needs to allocate more resources to inspections of heritage buildings that are at risk. Early action needs to be taken in cases of demolition by neglect, before it is too late. In these cases, I support three specific actions by the City. First, the City must step in and make necessary repairs in the event that the owner will not or cannot. The repairs should then be charged back as a lien on the property, which is within the City's power. Second, in cases like Somerset House and Our Lady School, where the owner is clearly uncooperative, the City must explore expropriation. In some cases this may be the only way to save important heritage buildings, and send an effective message that demolition by neglect will not be tolerated. Third, we must remove the motive for demolition by neglect. The City should make sure that the zoning on properties that are being subjected to demolition by neglect will not allow any increase in height or density if there were to be a replacement building, including by maintaining heritage overlays.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Jeff Leiper:

Yes, I would support heritage property tax relief. This would help encourage maintenance of heritage properties. The heritage grant program should also be expanded and adequately funded. These provide incentives for better stewardship of heritage properties, and make it less common for the city to have to step in and enforce maintenance.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Jeff Leiper:

Staff recommendations need to address the views of residents, when they raise valid heritage points. Heritage is defined in part through its importance to the community, and so the community's views must be taken seriously. Residents of the district, community associations, and Heritage Ottawa provide meaningful input. The heritage expertise of staff, however, must be respected in the process.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Jeff Leiper:

Owners should not have veto power. The Heritage Register is simply a list that flags properties which may be of heritage value. It does not serve anyone's interest to have possible heritage value concealed until a sale or redevelopment threaten the building. In practical terms, being on the Register just delays demolition to allow careful consideration, which is reasonable. The City should ensure that an adequate information campaign is carried out in areas where properties are being placed on the Register so owners are completely informed about the implications. However, it is important that all properties deemed worthy of being placed on the list after a professional assessment by heritage staff be placed on the list, and not removed because of pressure by a few owners.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Jeff Leiper:

I have been dismayed and frustrated that the architects for the Chateau Laurier addition kept returning with essentially the same inappropriate design. I believe that the clear direction now given to staff combined with continued leverage over the site plan process will result in a much better proposal. Staff are to work with the architect and Chateau owners to incorporate more Indiana limestone and better reference the existing building. Once staff are satisfied, the new design will go back to the BHSC for comment, and then the site plan will come to Planning Committee for approval. As the final motion was written, we will only pass the design if it meets the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places. I supported this approach both at Planning Committee and Council, confident that there will be significant expert and other public input into the design, and that we have the necessary leverage to stop the proposal if we're not satisfied that future design changes result in an appropriate addition.

WARD 16: RIVER CANDIDATES

RILEY BROCKINGTON, Fabien Kalala Cimankinda, Kerri Keith, Hassib Reda

Heritage Ottawa posed five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

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Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 17: CAPITAL CANDIDATES

DAVID CHERNUSHENKO, Jide Afolabi, Anthony Carricato, Christine McAllister, **Shawn Menard**

Heritage Ottawa posed the following five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

Names of the candidates who responded are distinguished in bold.

Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

David Chernushenko:

Yes, I would. This has gone on far too long.

Shawn Menard:

The City of Ottawa does indeed need to take a stronger and more activist role as the City is losing too many heritage buildings – the recent loss of the McGee House in Hintonburg is an important case in point.

If elected I would consider expropriation as a tool that can be used. The councillor for Somerset Ward - Catherine McKenney - called for expropriation mostly because the owner has so clearly neglected this valuable heritage property – for a number of years now. Expropriation is a tool that can and should be used in situations where it is legally possible.

I am also in favour of the city designating more resources to empower inspectors for heritage buildings. The city has the power to do the repairs itself, and to charge the owner for them or put a lien on the property. These are tools we can use now and use them we must.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

David Chernushenko:

Yes, I would support this, but need to know more about the implications.

Shawn Menard:

I would indeed support implementing such a program in the City of Ottawa. This type of program properly encourages the appropriate management of heritage properties. WE need this to assist owners in maintaining their heritage properties. This program would go hand in hand with a much increased heritage grant program, which I believe is presently underfunded. Both of these tools can provide important support for heritage buildings.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

David Chernushenko:

Yes, to some extent. Citizens have certain property rights, and also will dig in their heels and oppose initiatives that are well-intended, if they feel them to be an imposition by governments or bureaucracies.

Shawn Menard:

I believe that yes – City of Ottawa Heritage staff should take into account the views of local residents where they are addressing valid heritage points. Part of what makes a particular property or district heritage is its importance to the community. This is reflected in the wording of the Heritage Act. Residents must be allowed to have their input along with community groups like local community associations and our own Heritage Ottawa organization. These groups' opinions must be taken seriously and given significant consideration.

And, of course, City of Ottawa Heritage staff's expertise is an important part of the decision making process and they should be able to make independent judgements based on their particular heritage expertise.

The Councillor has an important role to play here, which I plan to take very seriously.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

David Chernushenko:

I do not believe there should be exemptions. However, a very clear communications initiative is required to help people understand the implications of this register, and what if any impact it may have on their property values and abilities to renovate.

Shawn Menard:

I believe the city's Heritage Register is a valuable tool in protecting heritage properties across Ottawa. But, I do believe the city has not done a good enough job in communicating why this tool is important and how it works. Communication is imperative so that property owners are not surprised when their property – large or small – is put on the register, rather than to find out just when a property is to be sold or redeveloped. Property owners of all sizes must realize that placing a structure in the heritage is not a problem – only a tool to assist the city.

I am very much in favour of the city carrying out an extensive education program for areas where properties are placed on the Heritage Register, so the owner understands exactly what that means.

I think the Councillor has a role to play in this education and as Councillor of Capital Ward – a ward with a substantial number of potential heritage buildings – I want to play an active role.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

David Chernushenko:

Alas, a city councillor is no more a heritage expert than are city staff. In fact, most of us have little to no such qualifications. I believe the addition should respect, but not mirror or imitate the existing hotel building. Let us also keep in mind that for decades this was a ghastly open parking garage. I did vote to delegate that authority. Architecture should not come down to a political vote in the end, but I am open to reconsidering this decision now that I am aware this is not the normal procedure under the Act.

Shawn Menard:

I agree with Heritage Ottawa that the current proposed addition is not substantially different from the presentations made previously by the owners. More consideration should be taken into account for the enormous importance of this building.

My question remains today why the owner was not required to submit a full application at the very beginning of this very disruptive and failing decision making process. The owners must get this right!

I believe the heritage issue is important in Ottawa – the capital city of Canada – and it should be handled with the importance it deserves.

WARD 18: ALTA VISTA CANDIDATES

JEAN CLOUTIER, Clinton Cowan, Raylene Lang-Dion, Mike McHarg, John Redins

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The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 19: CUMBERLAND CANDIDATES

STEPHEN BLAIS, Jensen Boire, Cameron Rose Jette

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The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 20: OSGOOD CANDIDATES

GEORGE DAROUZE, Auguste Banfalvi, **Mark Scharfe**, Kim Sheldrick, Jay Tysick

Heritage Ottawa posed the following five questions to each candidate running for Ottawa City Council. Answers are listed by the order in which they were received.

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The winning candidate's name appears in red.

QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Mark Scharfe:

It is often difficult to keep those old building in a safe condition because they were built at a time when often the cement was mixed by hand etc.....the owners have paid the taxes on the properties, and, unless there is exeptional circumstances, I would not be spending hard earned tax dollars on old buildings that will be very hard to maintain.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Mark Scharfe:

Yes, I would support programs such as this

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Mark Scharfe:

In our society, in a capitalist environment, I am a strong beleiver that, if you own the property, you should be able to do with it as you wish, on condition that it does not damage your neighbours property. It is the responsibility of the municipal councillor to listen to the concerns of all property owners, however, the owner of the property should have the final say, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Mark Scharfe:

Yes.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Mark Scharfe:

I dont want to take a position on this issue because the Chateau Laurier is not in Osgoode Ward. If I recall correctly, the original builder perished on the Titanic in 1912. There is a very significant history in that building, and, because it is beside the Parliment buildings, considerable thought should be given to this issue by all persons.....however, the final decision should be made by the PROPERTY owners.

WARD 21: RIDEAU-GOULBOURN CANDIDATES

SCOTT MOFFATT, David Brown

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The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 22: GLOUCESTER-SOUTH NEPEAN CANDIDATES

MICHAEL QAQISH, Zaff Ansari, **Carol Anne Meehan**, Irene Mei, Harpreet Singh

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The winning candidate's name appears in red.

NO RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FROM THIS WARD.

WARD 23: KANATA SOUTH CANDIDATES

ALLAN HUBLEY, Steve Anderson, Mike Brown, **Doug Large**

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Names of incumbents display in capital letters.

The winning candidate's name appears in red.

QUESTION 1

Demolition by neglect, in which designated heritage buildings are left to deteriorate, is an increasing problem in Ottawa. Should the City take a more active role in preventing the demolition by neglect of heritage buildings? Would you support the City's expropriation of Ottawa's most egregious example, Somerset House on Bank Street? Why or why not?

Doug Large:

Any building, regardless of age, should fall under regulations to protect the public. Buildings that may have historical significance must be identified well in advance so that any subsequent owner understands the limitations or restrictions that property may be bound by. Any building that is unsafe by established, legal measure, and after the owner is given reasonable opportunity to repair it, should be expropriated by fair market value.

QUESTION 2

Since 2001, the Ontario Municipal Act has allowed the implementation of a Heritage Property Tax Relief Program to encourage the rehabilitation of Ontario's privately owned heritage resources, which has been used successfully by many municipalities in the province. Would you support implementing such a program in Ottawa that would provide important tax incentives for owners to invest in the repair/rehabilitation of their heritage properties? Why or why not?

Doug Large:

Yes, I would support this program in Ottawa. In the long run we are better served by protecting and celebrating our history than by any (relatively) small bump in tax revenue.

QUESTION 3

In designated Heritage Conservation Districts, do you believe that local community opinion should influence City Staff recommendations to approve or reject heritage applications within the district? Why or why not?

Doug Large:

Yes, it is important to consider public opinion, however, the final determination cannot be left to the devices of a 'crowd mentality'. Reasoned thinking and public safety must always supersede unbridled passion.

QUESTION 4

The City's Heritage Register is a list of buildings determined to contribute to the cultural heritage value of the city. (Please note: a listing on the Register is not a formal heritage designation; the only restriction is that property owners must provide a 60-day notice of intention to demolish.) Do you believe that properties should be exempt from inclusion on the Register at the owners' discretion? If not, how would you attempt to alleviate a property owner's concerns?

Doug Large:

No, a property owner should not be able to arbitrarily exclude an otherwise qualified heritage property. The exception, by which a property owner would be fairly compensated, is if a property is added to the list where it didn't belong, previously. Each buyer of a property must perform due diligence.

QUESTION 5

What is your view on the proposed addition to the heritage-designated Château Laurier hotel? Do you agree with Council's decision to delegate final heritage and design approval of the addition to Ottawa City Staff, rather than requiring a revised heritage application to return to committees and Council for final approval, as per normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act? Why or why not?

Doug Large:

I believe normal procedure under the Ontario Heritage Act ought to be followed. Passing the decision back to Ottawa City Staff places an unfair burden on them.

END

*Heritage Ottawa Asks the Candidates / Ottawa Municipal Elections 2018
October 22, 2018*

