



2018 Election Questionnaire

Question One:

Why is heritage important to you personally? Why do you believe that heritage is important to the city at large? In your role as Councillor, what steps would you take to ensure heritage remains a key part of the discussion at the City and community?

Question Two:

What do you think is the single most important thing that should be done to support our local heritage and why? How do you see your role impacting this initiative?

Question Three:

Do you think it's important to recognize we are on the ancestral territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in some tangible way, such as flying their flag at City Hall? What other ways do you see us doing so?

Councillor

Ward 2

N/A

Ward 2

Candidate - Trustee ES

Sharon Hobin

I grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia which was founded in 1749. The city is abundant with heritage buildings that bring such character to the city. And despite some of the cobble roads being narrow and bumpy I hope that they never change this important characteristic of the city. I feel the very same about Mississauga. Living in a city that has great respect for its heritage means that the people will always have a way to understand from where the city the city has come; its stories, its relationships, its good and sad times. I want to live in that kind of a city. In order to know where you want to go you have to know from whence you came. Heritage brings life and character to a city. Citizens should know the history because then they will understand the story of the city; how the city became a city (which is fascinating for Mississauga). I believe in progress but all of us have to understand the importance of preserving the story of the people and places of Mississauga. While our role is limited to all things related to schools and the lands which are governed by the Education Act of Ontario, we always encourage our teachers, parents and students to know and take part in their communities. Our teachers use their communities to incorporate information and activities into curriculum, field trips and social justice. Dufferin-Peel has a long and rich heritage in Mississauga and I will continue to support and encourage this in our schools and at the board table.

I know that funding is limited. But I do think that the city should have a heritage strategy. Part of this strategy should be to build on the plan to spread the vision and goals of Heritage Mississauga. For instance, as part of the list of sub committees should be "Education". The goal would be to communicate with the Board of Trustees and schools on a regular basis to bring initiatives and opportunities from Heritage Mississauga to and for our schools. Perhaps a trustee would volunteer to take part in the Heritage Mississauga Board as we do with other committees in cities and towns. As I mentioned previously, I think our board (trustees and or staff) should be involved in helping with an education strategy, being on the Heritage Advisory Committee, supporting Heritage Mississauga to delegate the board to bring news and initiatives to the board. I would support this for sure.

The Indigenous Education Program in DPCDSB is centered on the following vision:
To inspire and unify learning communities through the voice and vision of Indigenous Peoples.
In order to achieve this vision the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has created a culture of collaboration with a focus on entering into open and honest conversations. A large part of this involves the work with our Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC). The IEAC has regular meetings throughout the year and is comprised of membership from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. The IEAC provides the voice and vision for Indigenous Education within Dufferin-Peel. The IEAC advises Dufferin-Peel on matters pertaining to Indigenous Education as well as the implementation of the Ministry's First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Policy Framework through the Board Action Plan. The implementation of the Board Action Plan includes:
The creation of resources for K-12. Many activities in our classrooms to educate students about our Indigenous friends and neighbours. Professional Development for staff at a variety of levels. Specific programs and practices to engage students and families who identify as First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit. In addition, the land acknowledgement has become standard practice as we begin all of our meetings, and our days. All of these practices serve to recognize ancestral land as well as the Mississaugas of the New Credit as our treaty partners.

Candidate - Trustee EP

Jasjit Singh

Being part of a family that migrated to Canada from India, traditions and heritage has been a very important aspect of my life. Growing up and going through the school system, I always felt we needed more heritage places that can make our future generations feel intact to our community. Heritage is a very important aspect of our beautiful city; it showcases where we were and how far we have reached. It is always nice to know where we are headed, to make sure we are on the right path. I know growing up, there were certain things we did in our schools and now feel are diminishing as we rapidly progress in this fast evolving world. We need to admire and cherish our heritage whether it is the Streetsville Village or the Clarkson Village (where I went to high school). I feel in a place where learning will take place, we cant always have things explained through books or teachers...therefore we need to be wiling to take the kids on school trips to heritage places. This will give them a chance to explore and experience Mississauga from the past and strengthen our roots as a community. I feel like we are losing that touch with our children and we need to build it.

As I mentioned before, the community preserves heritage through selfless service, and in order to make community members understand the importance we need to use the 'see and touch/feel scenario'. This scenario is just like the one we used in elementary school, where we were shown things to embed images into our minds. We are allowed to touch and feel an object to always have an understanding of what it felt like, in the back of our mind. This was seen as a simple task but it embedded great amounts of learning in children. I think we need to follow that scenario with the older generation as well, especially the seniors who often get together in their clubs. They should be taken on such trips to feel and understand the importance of heritage and then they will feel compelled to pass it forward to their children and vice versa. This initiative begins in early childhood during school, as a Trustee, I will try to focus the energy of our schools on matters other than schooling. Together we grow stronger, and being apart we simply fall. We need to grasp and understand the rich culture of our community. Growing up in Mississauga, so much has changed and sometimes I wished some things/places hadn't changed. So in order to prevent this remorse in the future, we should teach our next generation to hold and preserve the rich heritage of Mississauga.

I have always been a strong advocate for giving credit where it's due. I think the First nations deserve a say in this more than me or anyone else. We can pay our respects to them but they should be included in the conversation as well to find out how they feel.