



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 8

Candidate	Maqbool Walji			
		<p>I am fortunate to say I am blend of many cultures. Coming from an East Indian back ground to being born in Africa to immigrating to Canada at a young age, each heritage experience has shaped me into a better person. I have seen the trials and tribulations of many cultures and from this I personally feel I have a better understanding of various beliefs and cultures and humanity as whole.</p> <p>Heritage is an important tool in city development. It is important to recognize that the heritage of our people and cultural landmarks within our city generates an economic return for our city in the form of tourism and also gives the city a social return. The economic value to the city from heritage is significant. Millions of dollars are spent by tourists who wish to learn more about our city heritage and our country heritage. But even more important heritage creates a certain emotion within us, or because they make us feel as though we belong to something - a country, a tradition, a way of life. Cultural heritage affirms our identity as a people because it creates a comprehensive framework for the preservation of cultural heritage including cultural sites, old buildings, monuments, shrines, and landmarks that have cultural significance and historical value. Culture and its heritage reflect and shape values, beliefs, and aspirations, thereby defining a people's national identity. If we are more connected and understanding of heritage we feel more connected to city we live in. A more appreciation of the city we live in makes us a better society. We must recognize that our city is multicultural and our heritage is a combination of many cultures both first nation and immigrant. We must recognize at the city level the cultural heritage holidays the community members have. The city needs to take the lead that. We must make even in the smallest effort to recognize these events in conjunction with various faith and culture groups throughout our city community centres and education facilities.</p>	<p>We need to bring heritage learning into our education system. Our children lack the understanding of what the significance of our heritage is and how diverse we are as a people. This learning process needs to be implemented into our education system.</p> <p>Over the past few years I have had the privilege to participate in various inter faith and inter cultural forums and discussion groups. To better understand each other and our cultural heritage I felt this was important. We need to bring these sorts of forums and discussions into the education system. Having the experience in doing so, I feel I can impact and start the process in having heritage a more important part of our education system.</p>	<p>Yes it is important to recognize our heritage with Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation. A flag flying at City Hall is definite first step.</p> <p>What other ways do you see us doing so?</p> <p>We must educate our children on the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation. I am confident that many of our citizens do not know who they are or how our city got its name. We must teach and learn about our First Nations people through our education system at an early age.</p> <p>We should learn more about all of First Nations people on a national level. We also need to recognize a national holiday for our First Nations people. On such a day Mississauga can take a lead in celebrating our First Nations heritage.</p> <p>We need to incorporate more First Nations artefacts, artwork, architecture into our public spaces and our public buildings.</p>

Trustee

Ward 8

Candidate - Trustee EP	Jasjit Singh			
		<p>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 willing 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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.