



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 1

Name

Candidate Sharmila Setaram

For me, heritage is the legacy we leave each other. It is our foundation and encompasses all dimensions of our lives. I think it's natural to want to feel connected to something bigger than yourself and to know the footsteps that came before you. Growing up as second generation Canadian, I experienced a moment of connectedness when I visited the homes where my parents lived in when they were growing up in Guyana.

I believe heritage is important to the city at large because it can evoke a sense of shared identity, purpose, and belonging. Heritage helps to shape and establish the values, attitudes, and behaviours we want to foster and replicate in our community. The decisions we take every day influence the heritage (legacy) that we leave for future generations.

As a Councillor, I would be actively engaged in the remaining stages of the draft Culture Master Plan which is set to come to the General Committee and Council in early 2019. I anticipate listening to the feedback from community groups and residents; the Mississauga Heritage Committee; Arts, Culture and Heritage Ad Hoc Committee; and City of Mississauga staff. In my view, the strategic plan and various master plans are interconnected and all require community partnerships and financial investment.

We are a vibrant city with many stories and traditions and we need to find innovative ways to incorporate local heritage into public spaces that we interact with on a daily basis. We need opportunities to make our own personal connection and memories to places, people, and events in our community. I love that my nephew and I have a tradition of shopping for pumpkins at Herridge's Fresh Farm, a third generation business.

I would like to explore the feasibility of musical benches in public spaces, similar to the Chopin musical benches in Warsaw. These benches are connected throughout the city and there's an online app that has some basic information about Chopin and allows you to take a selfie with virtual image of him. It's fun and interactive. It's also a conversation starter and a different way to make new connections in our community. It would be a wonderful way to celebrate our emerging artists and local legends from the Mississauga Music Hall of Fame. Reference: https://www.inyourpocket.com/warsaw/chopin-benches_60873v

As Councillor, I see my role as a champion and advocate alongside with the Arts, Culture and Heritage Ad Hoc Committee and City of Mississauga staff encouraging us to be bold and creative in our city Draft Culture Master Plan and encouraging partnerships to bring these projects to life.

Yes, I believe it is important to recognize that we are on the ancestral territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

There are many wonderful ideas presented in the Draft Culture Master Plan and as identified in the draft plan, I would support the flying of their flag at City Hall.

I would like to explore opportunities for public art along the Lakefront in Ward 1. The 50 foot high stainless steel sculpture named Dignity (Dignity of Earth and Sky) near Chamberlain, South Dakota is a powerful symbol and a great example of how we can integrate art and history in public spaces. Reference: <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/explore-with-us/spotlights/dignity-earth-sky>

In addition, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has 94 calls to action and 5 of these call upon the municipal level of government. Call to Action 57 – calls upon all levels of government to “provide education to public servants on the history of the Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties, and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relation. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.”

Candidate

Stephen Dasko

Preserving and celebrating heritage give me a way to understand how our community evolved, our place in time, and to reflect on whether our actions today will create meaningful heritage for generations that follow. Down the road, I would ask were we responsible stewards of the community. Did we leave a legacy to be proud of?

The single most important thing that I can do as Councillor is to encourage and seek greater financial support for the volunteer organizations and grass roots efforts by citizens in Ward 1 to preserve, interpret and celebrate the aspects of heritage that they identify as significant. As part of that, I would look to the development industry that is transforming Ward 1 to help and partner with these groups to find ways to incorporate heritage into their plans and designs as well as provide direct support to the activities of these community leaders. Finally, I would champion Ward 1 volunteer organizations as equal partners with the City's culture division in addressing questions and services relating to heritage.

In this period of healing and reconciliation it is extremely important to recognize that our city rests on the ancestral territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation but in ways that are significant and respectful of the heritage of their community. I think flying their flag at City Hall might be an acceptable expression of recognition and a statute of Peter Jones and his wife near the mouth of the Credit which would recognize both of our cultures. However, I would want to ensure that representatives of the New Credit First Nation are deeply engaged and involved in any consideration of activities of recognition. Such activities must reflect in a major way activities that they believe are the most significant to their culture and heritage. I would be most pleased to participate as Councillor for Ward 1 in any dialogue between Heritage Mississauga and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation about ways and means of recognition.

Councillor

Brad Butt

As a life long resident of Mississauga and someone who cherishes our history and heritage, I believe it is vital that we protect and support our heritage spaces. Although Mississauga is a young city, the towns and villages that created it and our important aboriginal heritage go back hundreds and hundreds of years. This history must be celebrated and preserved. As Councillor, I intend to serve on the Heritage Advisory Committee and continue to be an active supporter of Heritage Mississauga.

The most important thing that we can do at City Hall is always make sure we have a heritage lens on change and development. We have a responsibility to protect our heritage for future generations. As Councillor I will always be looking at heritage preservation and enhancement.

It is very important that we recognize the ancestral history of Mississauga. Our City is named after the Mississaugas of the New Credit for a reason. I am pleased that Council recites an ancestral greeting at its meetings and flag raising and other celebrations and remembrances are very important in this recognition. Continuing a strong engagement with our aboriginal friends needs to be a top priority.

Trustee

Ward 1