



HERITAGE CALGARY

Heritage Calgary recently sent you a briefing package on heritage in the city, what we do and how we work with Council. If you didn't get it please let us know.

Please take our survey and let us know what heritage means to you and what you will do as a member of Calgary City Council for Calgary's history.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Heritage Calgary wishes you the best of luck on the campaign trail.

Heritage Calgary has put together a one stop resource for you to learn about everything you need to know about heritage in Calgary. This includes how sites are added to the Inventory, how municipal heritage designation works, existing incentives and grants and proposed conservation tools and incentives work including the residential tax credit.

What do you know about current heritage matters in the City and within your ward?

As a Calgarian with a deep interest in protecting our history, I am very much aware of heritage matters in our city. Heritage gives a city its character and makes economic sense. It makes a city unique and a place people want to live and build businesses. It also attracts people and gives visitors something to enjoy, rather than just "going to Banff".

Ward 1 has a great history, with its unique background of being a First Nations hunting area being at the foot of the Paskapoo slopes, and then the history of the Ranches in the area.

Many Calgarians don't realize that Silver Springs and Bowness are the name of the Ranches that once sat on this land. Bowness itself was first built by John Hextall to be an elite private utopian community complete with a toll bridge. Just a few of the luxury "Hextall homes" remain. After WWI many veterans affected by PTSD and gas attacks were treated at the Baker Sanitorium that now gives its name to the park across the river from Bowness Park. The Sanitorium had originally been to treat Tuberculosis patients. The area was also home to airfields where WWI flying aces set up companies. The area was later built up by WWII veterans who often built their own homes.

And of course there is the "Eamon's Bungalow Camp" sign which found a home at the Tuscany/Royal Oak/Rocky Ridge C-train station. Eamon's was built in 1949 to provide gas and food for drivers between Calgary and Cochrane...back when that was a longer drive. The station sits on where Eamon's was. But also of note, Eamon's was where Cory Hart filmed his 1986 music video for "I am by your side".

On a scale from 0-5, 0 being not at all and 5 being incredibly, how important is preserving Calgary's heritage to the Ward you hope to serve? Why?

5 - Incredibly important. I believe that heritage adds to the livability of our communities. It gives a unique character that makes people want to live, create homes, and to visit as tourists. We should capitalize on our western heritage to increase our tourist economic foothold, and to present Calgary as an attractive location for businesses to come to. It also helps us understand who we are as a community, and gives insight into our values and even why we vote for the people we vote for.

Chris Blatch, Ward 8 Candidate

What is your favourite heritage resource in the community you are hoping to represent and in the City of Calgary as a whole?

I find the history of the Baker Sanatorium fascinating. As well as the history of John Hextall and the development of Bowness Park along with the Bowness tram line, which at one time was a luxury escape from the hustle and bustle of downtown Calgary.

How will you help raise awareness of Calgary's history and heritage?

I will seek to help spread knowledge of the area, and of the economic importance of defending our unique heritage.

What importance does heritage have in attracting outside investment and business in Calgary?

5 - A great deal

How do you believe the new proposed property tax incentives will incentivize investment in our city? Will you support the proposed residential property tax credit?

While I agree that these measures have to be taken as an emergency measure, we can not just defer taxes that are continuing to be raised. Along with these measures we have to get City Hall spending under control with a focus on efficiencies and streamlining our costs. I support the residential property tax credit, but it can not be the only action taken. It must be coupled with cost saving measures.

What ideas would you bring forward in support of heritage in Calgary that are not included in our candidate package?

I strongly believe Heritage Calgary should be working hand in hand with Tourism Calgary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Calgary Stampede, which I would facilitate in every way I can.

Would you like to make any other closing comments pertaining to our city's heritage matters?

Too often protecting our heritage it's seen as being against the future well-being of a city. It's time we realize that protecting our heritage strengthens our path forward and is the foundation of growth and the future of our great city!