



# HERITAGE CALGARY

## Gian-Carlo Carra, Ward 9 Candidate

who agreed, through Treaty 7, to share it in the project of building community with Calgarians now from all over the world.

My favorite Ward 9-based resource is a three-way tie between the historic 9 (Atlantic) AV SE Mainstreet (the largest contiguous assemblage of 1906-1919 buildings in Western Canada), the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company, and the CPR's Ogden Shops (including their relationship with the former town and current community of Ogden). I choose these because of their interrelated roles in establishing the City of Calgary as an economic and cultural powerhouse with sufficient capacity to become the province's capital for the oil and gas industry. As stated above, these were the communities and industries that built Calgary and I take a tremendous amount of pride and optimism from how these heritage communities are at the forefront of Calgary's next emergence as an even greater Western Canadian place amidst an increasingly unstable world.

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

If reelected, I will continue to be a major advocate for heritage on Council - not just in terms of its cultural importance, but in terms of the ongoing development and delivery of a powerful set of policy and tools designed to ensure heritage preservation is an integral and uncontested component of city building in Calgary moving forward.

In any event, I will continue to be a storyteller, a lecturer, a tour guide and a Jane's Walk leader celebrating East Calgary's living 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?

Several years ago, when the National Trust held its annual assembly in Calgary, I was honored to tour attendees through Inglewood, basically giving them a modified version of my Jane's Walk - the Death and Life of Inglewood. They were amazed, amidst the downturn in Calgary's economy, to find the community vibrantly supporting retail, food, the arts, creative professions, an emerging tech industry, and more. When I was asked to explain the situation, I offered that the complete, compact, walkable neighbourhood is the best piece of hardware humans have ever invented to run the software of a vibrant culture and a diversified economy. Inglewood's urban design and built form is its heritage and is a fabulous case study in the ongoing scholarship proving that heritage is a great economic development strategy.

As a fierce champion of heritage tax incentives, one of the reasons I'm seeking reelection is to ensure this program gets inextricably baked into Calgary's business planning and budgeting from the next four year budget on.

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

I'm very pleased with the suite of advancements in heritage preservation that we're on the brink of locking in and I look forward to working with Heritage Calgary on the next tranche of policy and tools - specifically pertaining to heritage preservation tools on historic 9 AV SE within the Historic East Calgary Local Area Plan.

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

Thank you to Heritage Calgary for their ongoing advocacy and huge congrats on the huge advancements we are currently making in heritage preservation.

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?

With an undergraduate in the history of the urbanization of North America, a Masters in Sustainable Urban Design, and twenty years of professional practice, community advocacy, and action research in Calgary's historic East Calgary neighbourhoods I can comfortably be considered an expert in the subject of heritage in the City of Calgary.

### 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. On top of the well established reasons for heritage being critically important - a society that doesn't know and understand where it's come from cannot reasonably chart a successful path into the future; and, heritage preservation is an important part of successful economic diversification, tourism, and climate change mitigation strategies - I love the role that East Calgary's neighbourhoods historically played in establishing the city we are today, as well as the leading role they're currently playing in establishing the diversified economies that will drive our success long into an uncertain future. This is no accident - it is the inevitable result of the interactive relationship between historic urban places and the people these places foster. I believe that heritage is not only something that we enjoy from our past, it is a living tradition that we contribute to and bequeath to our future.

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

In this age of Truth and Reconciliation, the citywide resource I choose is Mohkinstis - the Elbow; the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers where since time immemorial the act of building community on this land was centered. It is where the City of Calgary was established by the NWMP, as well as the site, in my opinion, of our most important struggle to appreciate and reclaim our heritage.

The 1960 Calgary Plan envisioned the culvertization of the Bow River, the relocation of the CPR's mainline along the Bow's southern bank, and a freeway that would sever the downtown forever from the river. In the lead-up to the Canadian Centennial, a struggle occurred between this plan and an alternative vision of our city as nestled into the Canadian farmlands, rangelands, and wildernesses of Southern Alberta. Led by community-based advocacy, green won out over grey, and Fort Calgary was rediscovered amidst a rail yard that had subsumed our history beneath sidings and warehouses. From this historic point of reclamation has grown the largest urban park and pathway system in the world, celebrating our connection to the land. I believe that Truth and Reconciliation gives us the opportunity to further reclaim our history from this point - building on our respect for the land and acknowledging and celebrating our Indigenous relations