

Ward 1 Candidate: Cheryl Hurst



Question 1		Flood Infrastructure & Stormwater: Burlington has faced repeated severe flooding, including the 2024 storm that impacted over <u>1,600</u> homes and businesses. Will you support accelerating the City's stormwater planning, flood-mapping and infrastructure investments needed to reduce the risk and impacts of future flooding?
Response:	Yes	As we see climate change and more devastating impacts, Burlington needs to continue to invest and build infrastructure to support communities, our protect natural resource. It is important to continue and advance work in partnership with experts including Conservation Halton, dedicated groups such as BurlingtonGreen and institutions like the RBG that manage and sustains over 2100 acres of gardens, nature sanctuaries and more.
Question 2		Transit Investment & Emission Reductions: With vehicle emissions generating <u>over 40%</u> of Burlington's greenhouse gases, improving and expanding public transit is central to reaching the target to be a net carbon neutral community by 2050. Will you commit to supporting increased funding investments and service enhancements – such as fleet electrification, increased frequency, route reliability, and network connectivity – to make transit a competitive alternative to driving?
Response:	Partially / Other	I do support the ongoing investments and service enhancements such as changing the fleet to electric, working with the transit team to understand the frequency and route reliability to which people depend on. With out fluid network connectivity, accessible and reliable service it will not be a competitive alternative, as community members require consistent, reliable, cost effective service to make change.
Question 3		Climate Equity & Vulnerable Communities: While every resident in the city of Burlington will be impacted by climate change, not every resident will be impacted equally. The most vulnerable residents who are facing financial, social, mental and physical barriers will experience compounding effects and bear disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis. (<u>Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031</u>) Will you commit to supporting the budget investments required for the implementation of the City's climate mitigation, adaptation, and emergency response plans to protect these

		disproportionately impacted communities, and all residents?
Response:	Partially / Other	It is important to understand specifically where budget investments and implementation is currently occurring and how it has impacted any response and planning to support underserved and vulnerable community members. As above shares not every resident is impacted equally, and we need to have clear budget and transparent spending reports to make important and supportive decisions for community that require it with responsive, responsible action.
Question 4		Biodiversity Action Plan: Burlington currently has no municipal Action Plan to protect and care for local nature, and yet the implications of the biodiversity crisis (such as the acceleration of invasive species) continue to grow. Will you commit to directing staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028 with associated budget investments required for its implementation?
Response:	Partially / Other	Within the City of Burlington's Urban Forest Master Plan and Woodland Management Strategy it speaks to the the "creation of a city-wide biodiversity strategy". I would like to gather further data and details as to the timelines assigned to this creation and how aligns with the Biodiversity Strategy for Halton Regional Forests and Conservation Halton's Biodiversity & Resilience programs. As City taxes do contribute to Halton Region, I think it important to access transparent numbers showing what is supported directly towards an Action plan that impacts Burlington.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the <u>Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium</u> (temporary pause) on new and expanding aggregate operations? (The purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to conduct a broad consultation process, with Indigenous Nations, affected communities, independent experts and scientists, to chart an improved path forward.)
Response:	Yes	This is imperative to support the Escarpment ecosystem and allow more time to safeguard this important environment.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance</u> beyond the Ontario Building Code. Consistent with the <u>City's Horizon 2050 net -zero commitments</u> , will you proactively advocate for stronger energy-efficiency and sustainability standards in Burlington's new developments, with associated incentives, planning processes, and legal tools available to the City?

Response:	Yes	Transitioning development to low-carbon standards is strategic for our community as "buildings generate roughly 43% of greenhouse gas emissions". Although the province restricts mandatory energy -efficiency Burlington does plan using the Sustainable Building and Development guidelines (incentivizing EV spaces, transit passes for 1 year, vegetated landscaping and enhanced stormwater management). Burlington also uses Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) supporting sustainable development. I will continue to advocate for green building and development standards that provide our community access and proactive solutions for our future.
Question 7		Accountable Reporting: To ensure all Council members receive staff reports that are consistently accountable to the City's <u>Horizon 2050 Vision and 25-year Strategic Plan</u> guiding principles, will you direct staff to adopt an environmental, social, and economic lens to all reports, starting 2027? (example: <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals Framework</u>)
Response:	Partially / Other	Budgets/spending/investments need to be transparent and accessible. They need to be clearly reported line by line, with easy to read dashboards, for staff and council to make effective decisions. There needs to be open data and report for public to access that are clear, easy to read, and honest.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		As someone who has an Honours Degree in Outdoor Recreation, Park & Tourism. I feel that it is very important we understand our own footprint and impact to our environment. And I believe we all have a part to play, that changes through out our life chapters. I had the privilege of working for Hamilton Conservation with the education team. Teaching children, youth, adults, families, park users, and other educators fun ways to minimize our human impact through safe practices using exploration, using hands on experiences, games, songs, teaching how to safely enjoy these unique spaces and learn all the amazing (100 word limit reached).