

Ward 1 Candidate: Kevin Galbraith



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	The flooding in 2024 illustrated that even regular maintenance of our storm water infrastructure needs to be prioritized. I would certainly support accelerating the planning of these investments so that we are prepared for the next flood.
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:	Yes	I have supported all transit investments since elected including free transit for youth and seniors. I believe that we need our future residents using more transit than we are today. I am fully supportive of investments that help make this happen. As we grow and intensify, we can no longer depend on the automobile for trips within our city.
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:	Yes	I will continue to support budget investments in climate mitigation and adaptation, especially for vulnerable communities. We certainly noticed that many people were isolated during the flooding in 2024 and needed additional support from the municipality to get additional support from insurance and upper levels of government.
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:	Yes	I have yet to made aware of this plan on council but would certainly support accelerating it. As Burlington grows, we have committed to intensifying from within and not sprawling onto more green space. I would be curious to see the affects on biodiversity with this initiative.
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	Having not supported the expansion of the local Nelson Quarry operation, I am very sensitive to the local affects of gravel mining quarries to the population. Happy to support a pause until the right stakeholders are consulted.
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	As one of the wards with the most development applications I think that we should have some more standards for green, energy-efficient and sustainability standards. We have seen several applications using Geo-thermal but at the moment none have been built to my knowledge as the industry is in crisis. We do need to be mindful of costs to build housing when we entertain this initiative.
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:	Yes	I was supportive of the Climate Emergency and reporting structure that was to be included on all reports to council back in 2019. I would also support adopting a better scope of that reporting to include an environmental, social and economic lens to the staff reports.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		We recently purchased our first Hybrid vehicle and we try to share the driving whenever possible and leave other gas-using vehicles in the driveway. My business also just removed to older HVAC units and replaced them with heat pumps to keep temperatures of our building using a more efficient and cleaner energy alternative.