

Ward 5 Candidate: Paul Sharman



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	We have been working on this with the Province and Conservation Halton, both of which seem to be struggling with a practical solution.
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	Transportation accounts for over 40% of Burlington's greenhouse gas emissions, so reducing transportation emissions is essential to achieving our 2050 goal. I support continued investment in cleaner buses, reliability, connectivity and service improvements—but investment must produce measurable results. Burlington's challenge is making transit convenient enough that substantially more residents choose it instead of driving. We should use technology, including smaller on-demand vehicles where appropriate, while maintaining frequent service on high-demand corridors. Our objective should be a cleaner, more flexible, cost-effective transit system that increases ridership while providing responsible value for taxpayers.
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	Of course, I always have. I managed to include climate mitigation in the first Burlington 25 year strategic of 2015. I still believe this to be of critical importance.
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	Protecting Burlington's natural environment and biodiversity is an important long-term responsibility. Council has already approved the Urban Forest Master Plan and Woodland Management Strategy, including development of a city-wide biodiversity strategy, while Horizon 2050 commits Burlington to preserving natural areas and ecological resilience. I support bringing this work together into a practical Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028, with measurable priorities for habitat protection, native species, invasive species management and ecological restoration. I would support appropriate implementation funding through the City's normal budget process, based on clearly defined actions, costs, priorities and measurable environmental outcomes.
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	I support responsible management of resources. Provincial regulations and determination make this matter hard to influence.
Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance beyond the Ontario Building Code</u> . 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	Burlington should continue advancing the energy-efficiency and sustainability objectives established in Horizon 2050 while working within provincial legislation. I support advocating to the Province for stronger building standards and using the planning, design and legal tools that remain available to municipalities. I also support evaluating incentives that can demonstrably encourage higher-performing buildings without imposing unreasonable costs on taxpayers or undermining housing affordability. Our objective should be

		practical: encourage energy-efficient, climate-resilient development, reduce long-term energy consumption and emissions, and ensure Burlington continues progressing toward its net-zero goals while recognizing economic and housing realities.
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	That is why we produced the plan. I am completely committed to long term planning for the benefit of the community rather than simply to help elected officials get re-elected in 4 years time, which is what such plans typically are for all levels of government including municipalities.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		Electric vehicle, bicycle, electric leaf blowers, tankless water heater, upgraded insulation, pollinator gardens, grow my own vegetables, don't eat red meat.