

About Me, Barbara Mann: Candidate for Ward 6 Councillor

***Open - Transparent – Responsible Leadership***

*Being an engaged citizen has always been important to me. This has been shown through my work and volunteer history. More details below. My experience spans the corporate, institutional, labour and not-for-profit sectors. I will use it to help you understand how and why your money is spent. I believe the role of councillor is one of service and leadership.*

***We all want a safe, liveable and affordable Guelph.***

If I were to be selected to be your Ward 6 Councillor, know that I love Guelph. My goal is to work towards making Guelph an even better place to live. The key to doing this is with you, the community and public input. I will listen to you, I will be responsive, I will represent you, I will work with you. I will work collaboratively with other councillors and city staff to address what affects you every day.

***Our Place. Our City. Our Way of Life.***

Mayor Cam Guthrie, and Councillors Phil Allt, Christine Billings, Linda Busuttil, Erin Canton, Ken Yee Chew, Leanne Caron, Cathy Downer, Dan Gibson, Rodrigo Goller, Karly Klassen and Michele Richardson,

I want to help maintain Guelph's impressive reputation – one that you have been leading and the stewards for. I will work collaboratively with you and understand the importance of unity, and the restrictions of municipal decision making due to Federal and Provincial mandates. I am for accessibility, sustainability: economic vitality, protecting and maintaining our natural environment, culture, heritage, social integrity, safety and transportation – to improving our way of life. If my values are your values, please select me to represent Ward 6.

Ward 6 is an important area of Guelph and one that should never be under looked. I was very excited, and fully supportive of the South End Community Centre. I also participated fully in the Claire Maltby charettes . Ward 6 is one of the Wards that is being developed rapidly. In my opinion, perhaps too quickly and without important incentives to ensure that these developments protect the character, affordability and health of Guelph.

There should not be any vacant commercial spaces in these new developments. I met with a developer in another city who said that they provide free rent for the first 3 years of tenancy to ensure that independent business can survive. It also allows for businesses like day cares and for more successful young entrepreneurs to stay in Guelph rather than move where rents are less expensive. Furthermore, it is important that development should pay for itself. One neighbourhood should not be carrying a tax burden in order to subsidize development in another area.

Guelph is working well in regards to the population targets set by the province's Places to Grow Act. By definition, affordable housing costs less than 30% of individuals before tax income, and is a safe and healthy place to live. It includes Social housing which is subsidized, and can be market or before market

housing. Like the rest of the world, we are in a shortage. Guelph has experienced unprecedented infrastructure development and intensification in recent years. While this development has been a welcome addition, it has also had an impact on housing inventory that at one time provided affordable housing. It has displaced many of the people who lived in neighbourhoods where affordable housing was available.

As a municipality I am happy that we have committed to, and are working with both the federal and provincial governments to increase our supply of affordable housing. Some ideas, I believe would enhance development are access by public transportation for all and protection of our natural assets and becoming a green and blue belt community. Ward 6 is home to important water shed features that protect our future water sources. Also, we should create a built form mandate; utilize inclusionary zoning; implement protection of our night sky; ensure that all developments provide multi-use and accessible inter-connected pathways to other parts of the neighbourhood, accommodate 3 stream waste pick up, parking and have adequate green space for healthy outdoor activities.

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#### Now More About Me:

I was born and raised in Guelph, by parents who role-modelled the importance of caring for community, protecting nature and civic engagement. My father was a University professor and my mother a social worker. Together, along with others, they helped start the first recycling system in Guelph, before the Province's blue box system . My mother collaborated with friends to start the first day care and mental health association in Guelph.

Their passion for participatory democracy gave me the confidence, at an early age, to become an engaged citizen. I have written letters to the editor, and I've presented delegations to City Council and various city committees. Throughout high school and University, I started committees and clubs to address various needs. I have always prioritized fiscal responsibility; a sense of belonging; advocated for social justice and diversity; protection of the environment, and supported the arts, culture and heritage.

#### Past Leadership Roles include:

- Steering Committee, Smart Guelph, City of Guelph
- Founding member of the Race Relations Group at the University of Guelph which resulted in the Human Rights and Equity Office and associated policies.
- Secured permanent campus space for the Mature Students Association, U of G
- Board member and member liaison of Guelph Community Car Co-op
- Board member and Volunteer Coordinator of the Guelph Jazz Festival
- Market/Community Outreach Coordinator Hillside Festival
- Volunteer with Ceilidhs Guelph
- Volunteer Mediator, Guelph Courts
- Co-coordinator Jane's Walk Guelph, an annual event during which volunteers share what they love about Guelph during a walking conversation.

Current Leadership Roles and memberships:

- Founding and continued Member of the The Ward Residents' Association
- Volunteer Committee Hillside Festival
- Advisory Committee member of Guelph Black Heritage Society
- Member of Wellington Water Watchers, Friends of the Library, Guelph Yorkland Green Hub

I have also lived and worked in Australia and Brazil and travelled extensively. Thus, I am able to bring best practices and new eyes to challenges in my roles.

As a “planning geek”, I have always participated in city run public input sessions. In 1990's the province of Ontario mandated that cities re-zone their inner city industrial lands as incentive for future re-location of these industries. Residents' voices mattered and I jumped in. It was an incredible time as the first vertical intensification was being proposed in the downtown core. The City Council, staff and citizens all had a similar vision for the city zoned for protection of heritage, limited heights and connecting active transportation nodes on these lands. Together we found innovative solutions to local challenges. Examples being Guelph's first wet-dry recycling plant and, the timber covered bridge over the Speed River. In 2001, I was asked to be a member of the City of Guelph Smart Guelph Steering Committee. For 2 years we engaged local residents to find out how they wanted to see their city grow and develop. During this period I worked hard to ensure that we engaged a diversity of voices. The vision they created was one of a safe, connected community with a sound economy and protected natural spaces. Sound familiar? Then came the Green Belt and Places to Grow Act. Again, I participated in City of Guelph charrettes, and weighed in on the development of the Official Plan.

The privilege to work, study and travel abroad has given me first- hand experience and the ability to observe best (and worst) planning practices in urban design and transportation. My involvement in Guelph provides me an in-depth understanding of why people choose to make this wonderful city their home; the key issues and many community solutions. These experiences, combined with my love for Guelph, made running for council the next logical step.

I bring with me a background and experience in corporate, institutional, labour and not- for- profit sectors. I believe in applying best practices and in bringing your voice to council so that we have a safe and livable city.

Thank you for this opportunity. If my values are your values please vote me for Ward 6 Councillor.