

Rowen Fraser

Ward 6 Platform

2026

I have listened to voters from around the city in every neighborhood in Ward 6 to talk about the things that are important to them. Without their contributions this platform would not have been possible. I want to extend my warmest regards for everyone that took time out of their day to tell me what has really been going on, and more importantly, how I can help.

The main tenants of my campaign are **Transparency** and **Accountability**. Those two things will govern how I manage every promise I make.



Fiscal Responsibility

Far and away the most common issue I hear brought up is property taxes. The Burlington city-side portion of property taxes has increased 44.9% in the last 4 years. We can no longer afford to spend at such an unsustainable pace. If elected for council it would be my commitment to provide further transparency into the budget. I would support a motion to adopt a policy that would give residents a monthly budget update. This would be a concise line by line picture of the finances here in the city every month. It is my firm belief that this alone will have profound influence on the budget moving forward. Strong accountability breeds strong government. My ultimate goal for city finances is to bring tax increases down to the level of inflation within 2 years of taking office. I wish I could be more ambitious about this promise, but the dire financial situation that the city is in makes it near impossible. I would also see the Pipeline to Permit Committee abolished. It adds unnecessary time to already complicated development processes and is unable to issue binding resolutions. No more giant projects. We have to recover financially from the reckless projects we have built recently. There is no more additional room in the budget for giant constructions that add long term debt.

Community Safety

Here in Ward 6, just like everywhere else in the city, there is a massive e-scooter epidemic. Often riders exceed speed limits and fail to yield to traffic signs. The injuries are mounting. The readily accessible form of transport puts users at risk. It is technically illegal to ride these devices anywhere but centennial trail. You would never know it looking around though. We need to ramp up enforcement on the use of these devices. They pose a serious risk, not only to riders, but to pedestrians and motorists. Injury rates are up over 250% this year. Every day I read a new story about underage operators or bad practices or underage operators using bad practices. Not enough is being done to resolve the issue. It would be my commitment to support policy and legislation to mitigate these numbers by the first summer I am in office. I have drafted a preliminary e-scooter registration framework and I expect that we could have it functioning within a year of my taking office.

Read it [HERE](#)

Community Safety

Traffic safety in Ward 6 has been largely ignored by a lethargic incumbent. We have communities particularly north of hwy 5 such as Alton Village, and Rural Ward 6 that have been asking for more traffic mitigation projects for years. Their requests have fallen on deaf ears. Meanwhile the casualties have been mounting. My proposal is simple. Instead of spending another \$300k on “safety studies” we use that money to fix the issues we can see with our own eyes. I don't need a study to tell me that No. 2 side road @ Appleby is a dangerous intersection. The grave at the side of the road there illustrates that pretty clearly. Don't believe me, check out that very intersection in Google street view. That intersection is a disaster and needs a complete redesign. I don't need a safety study to tell me that Donnic Drive is in dire need of traffic mitigation infrastructure. One or two chicanes and some speed bumps would prevent cut through traffic in this, and similar areas. Burlington has lagged behind its neighbors when it comes to residential road safety. I have heard the argument that it detracts from the “character” of our neighborhoods.

Community Safety Cont...

If our residents aren't safe on their own streets, the character is irrelevant. It is my commitment that I will advocate strongly for better traffic management in these areas that have been left out in the dark, while the downtown core benefited from major capitol spending.

Ward 6 has recently undergone a crime stoppers pilot project to help with rising auto thefts and break-ins. This is a step in the right direction but what I would like to see is a renewed focus on community policing. Each major neighborhood should have a neighborhood watch with its on HRPS liaison, and organized nightly patrols of volunteers. Most criminals don't want to risk getting caught and just having a presence in our neighborhoods at night will be a sufficient deterrent in most cases. We deserve safe neighborhoods. Sometimes we have to pitch in. I think a working model for this could be worked out within 3 months of my taking office.

Data-driven Policies

We must trust the experts. Too many times I have seen opposition to projects that will benefit the community. All too often the justification is a knee-jerk fear reaction to something that most people don't understand. It is not our responsibility as elected officials to panic the public and whip up a frenzy to galvanize support. It is our responsibility to ensure we consult those who are experts on the matter and educate our electorate on the realities of any situation. It is the reason that council members have so many different resources available to them. Better use of these resources would benefit our community in many different ways. There should be a registry of current projects in the city. There is no reason that any projects being constructed in the city need to be kept confidential. Explaining projects coming to the city is a very important responsibility of the elected officials of the municipal government. I believe I am the best candidate in Ward 6 to undertake this and other responsibilities. I encourage you to check out my work on the [Mount Nemo Quarry Expansion](#) or the [Millcroft Greens Dispute](#). I have thoroughly examined both cases and concluded that we could have secured a better outcome for residents

Investing Wisely

Making the business and investment communities feel welcome is as important as managing our residents expectations. Like many Ontario municipalities, overall municipal net assessment growth has slowed relative to historical averages. Our city is uniquely situated along one of the busiest freight corridors in North America. The potential for growth is phenomenal. What we cannot do, is rush in head-first and approve everything. We need to carefully vet our incoming investments and decide which ones fit into the larger picture of city. My commitment on this file is to remain communicative about the different projects and opportunities coming to Burlington, and to engage with residents in a way that allows them to participate in a reciprocal conversation. We need to engage our business community and inspire investment through sustainable partnerships to offset our residential tax burden. It is my firm belief that the Bureau of Economic Development and Tourism's Key Performance Indicators need to be adjusted to better incentivize their acquisition of new investment. Commercial and industrial investment can help ease residential tax burdens and leave us with a stronger more prosperous Burlington.

Green Space Preservation and Canopy Goals

Burlington has very loft canopy goals and I am committed to ensuring Burlington remains on track to meet them. The time has come where Burlington has major expansion opportunities in the form of densification. Green Space and Canopy goals are more important than ever to preserve the lush beauty that permeates Burlington. It is my commitment to continue the protection of city green space and canopy to ensure that while we build up, we don't lose the spirit of our community. Some projects will invariably reduce the green space available here in Burlington. It will be my commitment to make sure that if we are trading this valuable commodity we are receiving benefits that are equal in value in return.

End The War on Cars

For years now, the focus in cities has been reducing reliance on automobiles and shifting commuters to transit and cycling. I will be very clear, we absolutely need more cycling infrastructure, and we need to optimize our transit system. What we cannot do, is try to solve traffic by making people drive less. Providing local solutions is one thing, but a lot of people prefer their own vehicle to the train and commute upwards of 50km per day. People vote with their wallets and cars are by far the most popular form of transport. We cannot continue to cripple automobile infrastructure to force cycling to the mainstream. The usage of bike lanes is very low on major arteries in Burlington. Painted bike lanes do not provide enough security, and separated bike lanes take up valuable road space on already congested major arteries. If cycling infrastructure is so important we need to make more of it separate from our road infrastructure. We need to connect the North and South with a major cycling artery that links within our current Network. Estimate put a project somewhere in the realm of \$20M. It is my commitment to figure out a way to pay for a major cycling artery and implement the first phases of planning within my first term.

Community Engagement

We need a council that is accessible and available. We cannot relegate our residents to simple Q & A with 1 minute of speaking time per resident. We need actual reciprocal communication. This will mean long meetings, hard discussions, and doing the work. Everyone deserves a chance to air their grievances and ideas. My office will always be open to discuss the policy and procedures I bring to the city and region. It is my commitment to deliver a responsive office that will engage in meaningful communication with residents. It is my intention to integrate a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software solution in City Hall to ensure that each department has access to important information seamlessly. It is my intention to meet with as many interested residents as possible to ensure that we are taking concerns from every facet of our demographics. Burlington residents are very concerned that the status-quo is passing them by. What I represent is a chance to reset their relationship with the city and once again have their voices heard.

An End to the Millcroft Madness

This issue has gone on for far too long. The mayor and ward 6 incumbent have given far too much credence to local NIMBY groups. They have spent nearly \$1M of taxpayer money on a foolish legal case they never had a chance at winning. The project is a simple infill and the developer was willing to offer significant concessions to the residents regarding green space and golf course preservation. Instead the city sued through the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal). This resulted in a total loss of any concessions and the developer getting everything they wanted. They are gearing up for a second fight and have already applied for another MZO to fight the development. MZOs were never designed to prevent development and this legal boondoggle will have further negative financial impact on the city. The residents of Millcroft just want this whole thing to be over. As councillor for ward 6 my commitment will be to have this issue put to bed, have all the infill units constructed by my second year in office, and gain a significant concession for the people of Millcroft from the developer that will come in the form of more protected green space for the city.

City Services

The city has many avenues for residents to book space for events. This system needs to be streamlined. To illustrate just how bad the current systems are, I applied in May for an event in Millcroft Park on the August 1st weekend. There was no communication. The date I requested came and went. There was no official communication ever directed to me regarding my application. The city could have made revenue on my rental of the space. There could have been local vendors and charities that benefited from the event I was planning on hosting. I wonder how many times this happens every year. How much money is the city turning down through inaction? It is my commitment that if you reach out to the city to plan an event that you will know exactly what the city requires from you, and what the city's responsibilities to you are. No more selecting which events can move forward based on who is friends with the mayor.

Transparency and Accountability

Nobody can get everything right. Mistakes are made. Miscalculations happen. No administration will ever be fully insulated from these occurrences. The important metric will be how they are handled. Ownership must be taken. The Mayor and Council should be able to identify and communicate regarding their less successful policies and how they hope to improve results. A transparent and accountable government that is in-tune with what the residents want can confidently make decisions and effectively govern.

It all starts with the understanding of who is truly in charge. Councillors are ordinary people who have gone through a rigorous job-interview to work for us all. This position is given with the understanding that those who receive it will work towards the city's best interest during the course of their employment. It is my commitment that should I have the honour of being chosen for this position that I will be transparent, and accountable to my own actions. I will always seek to better my understanding of resident issues. I will be relentless in my pursuit of a better outcome for residents. Most Importantly, I will show up ready and willing to work for my constituents every single day.

Transit Solutions

There is a new future on the horizon for transit here in Burlington. Argo Transit is looking to change the way we organize our transit routes. With impressive numbers from their pilots in Bradford and Brampton, they show us that on demand transit solutions play an important role in an accessible modern transit grid. This service will provide new opportunities to optimize existing bus routes and prevent mostly empty bus routes from eating into our tax levy. Obviously the wider the coverage we can get, the better. With this new program residents will have improved access to less densely populated areas of the city that normally wouldn't qualify for transit. Now they will have a convenient way to access the transit system Burlington Transit has been working so hard on. It will be my commitment to ensure that tax payers get the most out of their transit system dollars. This will include initiatives such as advanced signal timing for transit, and local route reorganization.

Traffic Management Solutions

The State of the current traffic landscape in Burlington is no longer acceptable. Road widening can only do so much to help with traffic volume. There is another important metric that is routinely ignore. CPM (Cars Per Minute) is a flow rate calculation that most city planning departments use to track traffic flow through a city. There are several things that can interfere with optimization of CPM numbers along major arteries. The worst thing affecting that here is undeniably signal timing. This has been touted in many elections as a simple fix. The reality is a little more complicated. Because the roadways we are trying to integrate are managed by 3 separate entities (The City, The Region, and the MTO) there will never been cohesive signal timing unless the resources of all three are available under coordination of a single staff. There must be a detailed proposal for the integration of the systems used by each branch of government to amalgamate live traffic data in a way that will enable the managing staff to coordinate all signals along major arteries. I have written a preliminary proposal that can be read [HERE](#)

Thank You

I really appreciate each and every person who I met at their doors this spring and summer who helped me design this platform. The direction our city is taking is leading to an unsustainable financial future. It is up to new generations to come up with solutions, while drawing on the wisdom from our predecessors. I am truly blessed to have supporters from all over the city who believe in my message. The support has been overwhelming. I have spent countless hours pouring over old budgets, statistics, and construction proposals in preparation for this role. It has not been easy, but it has been extremely rewarding. There is honestly no better feeling than connecting people with the right resources for their success. The most rewarding part of the process has been all of the people I have met who contribute incredible amounts of their personal time and effort to make life better for everyone around them. These are the same amazing people who have inspired me to do more and to want more for the residents of Burlington. From the bottom of my heart thank you. Your examples are ever-present in my mind and provide constant motivation. Thank you for being a part of it all.