

The Historic Westbank Association asks all the candidates running for Mayor and Council for the District of West Kelowna some key questions our organization considers are important to the future of our community.

First a little background about the Historic Westbank Association

The Historic Westbank Association (H.W.A.) is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting our town of Westbank within the District of West Kelowna (D.W.K.). We are proud of our 111 year history and respect and honour our hard working pioneers that established our multifaceted vibrant community. One of the H.W.A.'s goals is to promote and foster economic development in downtown Westbank. One of the ways we have accomplished this as an organization, is to host the Westbank Farmers' Market each Saturday during the summer from the end of June until the middle of September. Over the last five years that the market has been held, we have seen the increase in the number of vendors participating and more citizens and area visitors stop by to purchase locally grown fruit, produce, baked goods, preserves, handicrafts, etc. and stay to enjoy the music of our local musicians.

The H.W.A. is actively involved in partnership projects with the Westbank Museum & Arts & Crafts Society and the new Westbank First Nation Museum to promote our local history that extends back over 200 years to the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail era. These and other projects help to encourage economic development, downtown business activity and help foster and promote tourism in our town of Westbank within the D.W.K.

Questions for the Civic Electoral Candidates for D.W.K. Mayor and Council

- 1) Do you think economic development in downtown Westbank is important and why?
- 2) Do you feel Westbank's history and heritage forms the fabric of our community and deserves to be protected, preserved and promoted? Why or why not?
- 3) If your answer to question number 2 is yes, would you support promoting our historic town of Westbank within the D.W.K. if you are elected to council?
- 4) The proposed new civic centre is planned to be built in downtown Westbank in the next few years. Will you promote the new facility as being located in Westbank?
- 5) If your answer to question #4 was no, please explain your view.
- 6) Westbank First Nation (W.F.N.) lands (I.R.#9 and I.R.#10) are within the boundaries of the D.W.K. Do you feel that the D.W.K. has a fair, good, or poor relationship with W.F.N.? Please explain your viewpoint?
- 7) If in your opinion, the D.W.K. has a poor or fair relationship with W.F.N., how can it be improved?

8) One idea to help improve relations between D.W.K. and W.F.N. and foster good will, is to form a partnership to promote the businesses in downtown Westbank with the businesses, big box stores, restaurants, etc. on I.R. #9. Do you think that would help improve business exposure and tourism potential for both Westbank and W.F.N.? Why or why not?

9) In your opinion, has the past D.W.K. council been fiscally responsible with spending our tax dollars? Please state facts that support your argument.

10) List up to three important issues that the current D.W.K. council, in your opinion, has not addressed or adequately dealt with.

Thank you for sincerely answering our questions. The Historic Westbank Association wishes you the very best on your campaign for either councillor or mayor. We trust that the successful candidates that are elected to D.W.K. council will sincerely commit to serve our citizens with honour and dignity.