

Community Connections

AN UPDATE FROM

Councillor Berry Vrbanovic



Dear Neighbour,

In 2006, you once again gave me the honour of serving as your City Councillor. Since then, you, your neighbours, and I have worked together to make our community and our City, a better place for all of us to live, work and play.

The past few years have not been without their challenges, particularly for some of our neighbours. However, these times have also demonstrated both the resilience of this community and the caring nature of the people who call Kitchener home. Despite these challenges, our community has continued to thrive, making

significant strides in the development of our local economy, in the revitalization of our downtown and in the investment in our infrastructure both above and below ground which will enhance the quality of life of our residents for decades to come.

These successes have not come easy. They have taken leadership, a willingness to make tough decisions, a lot of hard work and a significant investment of time and money. But together, in the barnbuilding spirit of the Mennonite heritage of this region, we have risen to the occasion and accomplished together what we could not do on our own. However, going forward, we cannot take our successes for granted. We must continue to work together on the many important issues which must still be tackled by our community!

With the City and region growing as fast as it is, and with at minimum, at least 7 changes to Kitchener Council due to growth in the council size and a number of retirements, Council will need dedicated and experienced leadership to keep moving things forward. More than ever, this election requires you to be engaged and informed about who you vote for. Electing the right person to represent you will impact not only the kind of community we enjoy, but also the kind of community our children and grandchildren can expect tomorrow.

On October 25th, I encourage you to make sure you get out to vote in this important election. I also ask for your support and your vote so that together, we can make our community a better place for all of us!

Sincerely,



Joining 2010 COPS Canoe Day participants which included Melissa Durrell from CTV Southwest upon returning to Canoeing on the Grand at Freeport Bridge.



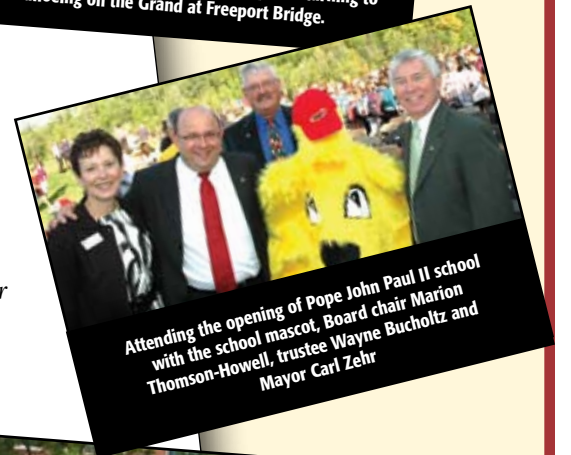
Joining ward resident and long time minor hockey volunteer, Pat Doherty at the 2009 Olympic Torch Relay celebration in Kitchener. Pat was the final torchbearer that lit the cauldron for our celebration.



With the 2009 City of Kitchener Oktoberfest parade float joined by Olympic Torch relay celebration co-chairs Brad Schlegel and Ann Bilodeau and boxer Mandy Bujold.



With Fred Ewanick, who plays Dan, Mayor of Wessex during filming at Kitchener City Hall



Attending the opening of Pope John Paul II school with the school mascot, Board chair Marion Thomson-Howell, trustee Wayne Bucholtz and Mayor Carl Zehr



Joining all the community volunteers who helped with the Centreville-Chicopee Community Centre's 31st Anniversary Community Carnival and Fire Open House in October 2010



Joining staff from the Kitchener Fire Department Station #3 and from McDonald's at Ottawa & River for the 2010 McHappy Day

VOTING DAY
Monday, October 25, 2010
10AM - 8PM

Beat the lines...vote this Saturday at the Advance Poll
Saturday October 16, 2010 • 10AM - 4PM
Stanley Park Community Centre

New in 2010: To vote, you must bring identification which includes your name, address and signature in order to vote. For acceptable forms of id, please check my website.

Please contact my election headquarters if you wish:

- election day information or a ride to the polls
- a lawn sign
- to help with my campaign

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Community Connections... *AN UPDATE FROM* Councillor Berry Urbanovic



A Report to the Community...

In 2006, I committed to working in a number of different areas that were important to you, the residents of this ward. They included Strong & Vibrant Neighbourhoods in Chicopee-Grand River ward, Safe & Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities & the Environment, Arts & Culture, Downtown Revitalization, Economic Development, Community Engagement and Participation and a solid Financial Picture for the City of Kitchener.

Over the past four years, together with my colleagues on Kitchener Council, and with your support, I have had the honour of representing you and working on these areas, helping to ensure that this community continues to be one of the best in Canada in terms of quality of life.

Together, we have been able to implement many new ideas and build on old ones – both in terms of facilities and programs provided by the City.

In the next three pages, I look forward to providing you with an update on numerous initiatives that have taken place over the past four years and some of the activities I have specifically been involved with on your behalf.

On Building Strong & Vibrant Neighbourhoods

"I want us to have safe, diverse and caring neighbourhoods, where we ensure we provide services for our youngest to our oldest and for our most needy to our most successful. I am committed to ensuring that we have the kinds of community facilities necessary such as community centres, arenas, libraries and parks and trails to encourage participation and healthy lifestyles for all residents."



Beaumont Park is one of 3 new parks constructed in the ward during this current term.

Over the past four years, in our neighbourhoods, Berry has....

- ✓ Worked to see new parks built in the ward – Tremaine Park, Beaumont Park and Country Clair Park.
- ✓ Supported funding for the new splash pad presently under construction at the Centreville-Chicopee Community Centre.
- ✓ Worked with the Stanley Park Community Association and the Centreville-Chicopee Community Association on their projects including program registrations and special events like the recent Community Carnival.
- ✓ Brought forward a motion to keep Rockway Seniors Centre Open and to look at long-term options for the facility and the site at its present location.



Construction of the Stanley Park Community Centre, which recently celebrated its 5th anniversary, was a highlight of my time on council.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Bring together the city, schools, churches, business and other organizations in the ward to develop a Healthy Community Development Plan for the ward – focusing on the specific strengths and challenges of our neighbourhoods.
- ✓ Ensure the development of remaining parks and trails in Grand river South during remaining phases of development.
- ✓ Work to budget and develop one or more riverfront parks along the Grand River.
- ✓ Push for the development of more sportsfields in the City, including soccer fields.



The new splash pad at the Centreville-Chicopee Community Centre under construction, to be completed this Fall and open in Summer 2011.

On Arts & Culture

"Arts and culture is one of the significant factors influencing the quality of life in a community. A strong arts & culture sector allows our community to honour its past, celebrate the present and reflect on our dreams and aspirations for the future. The support of arts & culture is also an important element of economic development as many companies want to see a vibrant sector before relocating to an area."



The Museum, together with the Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts has helped add to the Arts & Culture scene right in downtown Kitchener.

Over the past four years, and in previous terms, Berry has...

- ✓ Ensured that important cultural facilities and organizations like The Centre in the Square, the Registry Theatre, the Museum, the KW Symphony and others receive the support they need to be successful.
- ✓ Supported the creation of the new Arts Enabling organization as recommended by the Prosperity Council.
- ✓ Supported the Magnetic North Theatre Festival in our community which brought us a visit from the past Governor-General, Michaëlle Jean in June, 2010.
- ✓ Ensured a continued emphasis on the support, and development of more festivals and special events which already bring hundreds of thousands of people into our City including events like the Multicultural Festival, Kitchener Blues Festival, Oktoberfest, Christkindl Market, Cruising on King Street and Festival of the Night.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Continue to support investments in special events both in the downtown and throughout the city, both for our residents and for economic development purposes.
- ✓ Work with the arts sector to address the findings of the 2010 Waterloo Region Vital signs report that identified a significant loss in cultural workers and declining attendance at arts establishments in this area.
- ✓ Support the Enabling Organization in their efforts to create a sustainable arts sector in this region.

Holiday Season Events

Victoria Park Christmas Fantasy

Dec. 2nd thru Jan. 2nd
(running dusk to Midnight)
Kickoff December 2nd at 5:45pm

Christkindl Market

at Kitchener City Hall
Thurs. Dec. 2 - Sun. Dec. 5
Opening ceremonies Dec. 2,
beginning at 6pm



Festival of the Night

December 31, 2010
Countdown to the New Year
with a variety of afternoon and
evening activities

On Safe & Healthy Communities

"I have great respect for our emergency service providers – the fire department at the City and police and ambulance at the region. I also have to include our bylaw enforcement staff. I regularly speak out to ensure that the frontline men and women in these professions have the resources they need to protect and serve us when we need them the most. Both being safe, and feeling safe is a priority for our residents."



Speaking with WRPS Superintendent Bryan Larkin and Community Resource Officer Lisa Nyusa about the future of the COPS program.



Over the past four years, and in previous terms, Berry has...

- ✓ Co-founded the COPS Youth Outreach program in the Chicopee neighbourhood, which this summer celebrated its 13th year.
- ✓ Supported the construction of Fire Station #7 to serve the City's West side and previously supported the relocation of Fire Stations #3 and #4 into the ward for better community response times.
- ✓ As vice-chair of the Safe & Healthy Community Advisory Committee, pushed for the provision of Defibrillators at all City facilities in partnership with the Heart & Stroke Foundation.
- ✓ Served on the board of the Canadian Police Sector Council to address recruitment and retention issues in the policing profession.
- ✓ Helped bring about the first municipal pitbull ban in Ontario and worked with the province in achieving a province wide ban.

- ✓ Provided ongoing support for community safety initiatives like Direct Detect through the Fire Department, community policing in our wards and the need for a visible police presence in Downtown Kitchener.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Continue to work on the COPS Youth Outreach program including looking at ways to grow the program.
- ✓ Advocate with other levels of government to ensure we are getting adequate support for our emergency service providers and that \$\$\$'s for things like the National Crime Prevention Council which have recently been cut, are restored.
- ✓ Examine where the City can better partner with local groups and agencies to address community safety issues.

On Sustainable Communities and the Environment

"I am committed to seeing Kitchener become one of the most progressive communities in Canada when it comes to the environment and sustainable community planning. We must encourage the greening of our community, find ways to minimize traffic congestion and plan future development and intensification taking economic, social, cultural and environmental considerations into account."

Over the past four years, and in previous terms, Berry has...

- ✓ Been selected to be trained by former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore as a climate change speaker with the Climate Project non-profit organization.



- ✓ Strongly supported the creation of the \$5 million LEAF – Local Environment Action Fund, and the many projects that have been approved through the fund.
- ✓ Supported the creation of a Cycling Advisory committee and the newly written Cycling Master Plan.
- ✓ Listened to the community and supported the decision to not sell unused green spaces for development purposes.
- ✓ Worked with Grand River Car Share to make parking spots available at city facilities and for the city to work with car share as a way of meeting some of our fleet needs.
- ✓ Served as Vice-Chair of the Environment Advisory Committee whose work has included support for the updating of both the City's Environment Strategic Plan and Citizen's Report on Air Quality.
- ✓ Pushed that LEED Gold become the city's new building standard wherever possible for new and renovated city building projects.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Ensure that the City focus on the implementation of the Parks Strategic Plan including benchmarking our city against other livable cities and a focus on the development of parks along the Grand River.
- ✓ Work to see the City partner even more with community organizations like Sustainable Waterloo Region, Grand River Car Share and others to further enhance our environmental focus.
- ✓ Encourage the creation of an Environment and Sustainability office where all of the city's environment initiatives are co-ordinated for citizens, business and public sector agencies.



On Downtown Revitalization

"Downtown Kitchener is the heart of our community – a place where people of all ages should live, work and play. It will be a safe, dynamic place that reflects the pride of our residents, and where we come to celebrate our community's history, its prosperity, and most importantly, its people."



Over the past four years, and in previous terms, Berry has...

- ✓ Created policies which have generated significant private sector investment in various downtown projects including the Tannery (\$30 million), the City Centre (\$90 million estimate), the Arrow Lofts and Breithaupt Block (\$23 million estimate).
- ✓ Supported the expansion and renovation of the Kitchener Public Library Central Library.
- ✓ Obtained federal and provincial infrastructure stimulus dollars for the King Street streetscape improvements.
- ✓ Worked to ensure that Downtown Kitchener was selected by the province for the new region-wide Provincial Courthouse facility.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Make sure the many projects under development presently continue to move forward in a timely manner.
- ✓ Work to ensure we look after our investment in the downtown streetscape through the development of a cleanliness strategy.
- ✓ Work with the KDBIA and private partners to build on the momentum of attracting new businesses to the downtown.



Groundbreaking for the sales centre for the new City Centre condominium development in Downtown Kitchener.

Berry as VP of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)



Meeting with former Governor-General Michaëlle Jean to discuss the role of Canadian municipalities in the reconstruction of post-earthquake Haiti.

“Representing Kitchener while serving as VP of FCM is a huge honour. It allows me to take some of our best practices in Kitchener and share them with colleagues across the country and internationally. It also allows me to learn from them, and bring some ideas back to our community, without reinventing the wheel.”

- ✓ First elected to the Board of Directors in 2000, elected as a VP in 2007.
- ✓ Past roles have included Chair of the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and the Standing Committee on International Relations.

- ✓ Effectively lobbied the federal government, as VP of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to make the gas tax permanent and to invest in infrastructure stimulus dollars. In the past four years, for Kitchener this has meant receiving almost \$70 million in infrastructure dollars from the other orders of government.
- ✓ Represented FCM at the 2009 COP15 Climate Change Summit and currently serve as the Chair of the Haiti Technical Assistance Working Group, co-ordinating the Canadian municipal response to reconstruction after the Haitian earthquake.

On Community Engagement & Participation



“I believe as elected officials, we have a responsibility to reach out to citizens – both to keep them informed and to engage them in dialogue about major issues. I am committed to regularly communicating with my constituents through various means in the future and to engaging on important issues.”

Over the past four years, Berry has...

- ✓ Regularly kept his constituents informed with Community Connections columns in the Kitchener Citizen.
- ✓ Held several Community Connection Town Hall meetings throughout the term for residents to come and discuss issues of importance to them.
- ✓ Supported the city’s social media policy as a way to reach out to new segments of the community, and has engaged in social media himself as a way to reach out to citizens.
- ✓ Supported the city’s new Diversity Strategy and Engagement strategy.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Continue to communicate with residents regularly through both traditional and social media.
- ✓ Develop a website and online newsletter that will remain active during my term on Council.
- ✓ Investigate new online tools to enhance the citizen customer service experience.
- ✓ Work with citizens and Council colleagues to modernize the voting process for 2014.

On Economic Development

“We have one of the strongest economies in Canada and we must work diligently to ensure that employment opportunities exist in the future for all members of our community. I will work to find ways to support our traditional manufacturing cluster while also encouraging development and new success in the arts & culture, biotechnology and digital media and knowledge creation clusters.”



Over the past four years, Berry has...

- ✓ Continued to support strategic investments from the Economic Development Investment Fund, including the digital media hub which recently opened in The Tannery.
- ✓ Supported partnerships with the education sector including the new School of Pharmacy and the Medical School satellite campus.
- ✓ Through his work at FCM, taken on policy issues like dealing with the ‘Buy America’ clause in the U.S., which hurt Canadian businesses.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Continue to support a focus on the new economy while working with staff, business and labour to also focus on the traditional manufacturing sector and on ways to strengthen it where possible.
- ✓ Challenge our staff to continually find ways to improve our customer service to business investors, making it easy for people to choose Kitchener as a place to do business.



On Kitchener’s Financial Picture

“Kitchener is in good financial shape. We have kept taxes as low as possible and have invested wisely when it was prudent to do so. And we are starting to see the results. I am committed to ensuring that we continue to find operational savings and efficiencies at the City and to invest appropriately in our future so as to ensure that we keep as many dollars where they belong – in the pockets of our taxpayers.”

Over the past four years, Berry has...

- ✓ As Chair of the Finance & Corporate Services committee, worked hard with his colleagues to ensure that the City is running effectively and efficiently. He has helped ensure that Kitchener’s tax bill remains amongst the lowest in Ontario - presently 6th lowest out of the 28 largest urban centres in the province.
- ✓ Supported the creation of an Audit Committee.
- ✓ Worked with Kitchener utilities to continue to have amongst the lowest natural gas rates in the region, ensuring our ownership benefits taxpayers directly and in terms of quality of life in Kitchener.

Going forward, I will...

- ✓ Work to keep Kitchener taxes amongst the lowest of Ontario large urban centres, with tax increases for core operations kept below the MPI.
- ✓ Continue to lobby the federal and provincial governments for long-term and sustainable infrastructure investments so that municipalities begin to receive more than 8 cents of every tax dollar collected.
- ✓ Look to find additional efficiencies and savings by working together with neighbouring municipalities.



On Monday October 25th

“My family has made this community our home for over 33 years now, and as a resident of the ward, and your neighbour, I am proud to serve you as your Councillor. I grew up here, attending St. Daniel Elementary School, St. Jerome’s High School and Wilfrid Laurier University. I stayed in our community after university working in the private and public sectors, including owning my own small business. I have been involved with many community organizations, doing my part to make our community second to none. I ask for your support now by going out to vote on election day. And when you do, I ask for your vote and the honour to represent you again as the Councillor for Ward 2.”

Re-elect Berry Vrbanovic

Kitchener City Councillor, Ward 2

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