

Marie Blosh  
Ward 6 Resident

October 14, 2021

Mayor and City Councilors  
London, Ontario  
*Via e-mail*

Dear Mayor Holder and City Councilors:

I would like to put my name forward for your consideration to fill the council seat vacated by Councilor Phil Squire. It is important for the seat to be filled by someone who lives in the ward and has a history of being involved in city-wide and neighbourhood issues. I meet those qualifications and believe that my background and experience would be an asset on council.

The Municipal Act provision for appointment to fill a vacancy does not require or prefer candidates in the previous election. I urge you to seek applications for the position in an open and transparent process.

In 2014, I ran for City Council in Ward 6 and came in a very close second. I did not cast my hat in the ring in 2018 due to health reasons (I'm now a cancer survivor), and am not seeking this seat to jump start a campaign in 2022. I have close ties with residents in Ward 6, can represent their concerns for the next year, and would be honoured to serve.

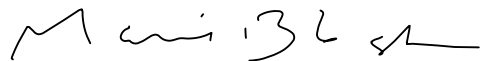
I moved to London twenty years ago and have been involved in civic affairs almost from the very first day. The Broughdale Community Association was holding a meeting, I went, I volunteered to serve as Secretary, and eventually was elected as Vice President and then President. I held that position for over a decade. During those years I often sat through Planning Committee meetings that lasted past midnight in order to speak to council about matters that affected the neighbourhood. I participated in workshops to develop the London Plan. I coordinated a tree planting project with King's College and ReForest London. I worked with students and administrators from Western on town-and-gown issues, and represented my neighbourhood association at hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board. I served on the London Advisory Committee on Heritage and spearheaded Provincial designation of the former Broughdale School, which is now part of King's College.

Currently, I am Vice Chair of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. I also hold an appointment to the Board of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, where I serve on the Hearings Committee. I've gained experience in environmental and planning issues, multi-million dollar budgeting and municipal levies.

Prior to moving to London I was one of the first women to be hired as a railroad fireman for the Southern Pacific. I held that job for twelve years during which I worked night shifts so I could attend law school during the day. I was subsequently employed as a Research Attorney for the Superior Court in California and, later, as a law school librarian. I furthered my legal education at Western Law and received my LL.M. in 2012. I am presently retired.

I am asking the City Clerk to place this letter on your Council Agenda.

Sincerely,



Marie Blosh