**Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

**Civic Elections 2021**

**Questions to Candidates (Mayor)**

The Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society (WGPPS) is interested in your response to 2 questions relevant to the Park and The Society.

* The replies will be posted Alphabetically by the Candidates family name , Mayoralty then Councillors, on our website.
* Replies will be posted "as is” with no alterations (please use PDF, Helvetica 12 font)
* The WGPPS, Its board members and contractors **WILL NOT** comment any social platform on behalf of the Society. We will let our membership make their own decisions.
* This Letter is sent to all candidates on September 21 2021
* **Due date October 4 2021**
* All Replies will be posted at the same time (after the due date) *October 7th*
* “**NO REPLY”** will posted next to the candidates’ name if no reply is received by the due date.

*Please note: to level the playing field be aware of the following :*

Negotiations with the City were begun last fall to look into a stronger, formalized partnership with the City and the WGPPS. Though not yet finalized, communications have greatly improved, this has been a plus to the Society and the Park.

***Question 1 (100 words)***

**What is your vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?**

***Question 2 (100 words)***

**Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society ( This is open ended as long as it deals with the Parks )**

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Replies to:

Yves Dansereau

president@theweaselhead.com

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ian Chiang | NO REPLY |
| Jan Damery | NO REPLY |
| Jeff Davison | NO REPLY |
| James Desautels | Has replied see below |
| Jeromy Farkas | Has replied see below |
| Brad Field | Has replied see below |
| Emile Gabriel | Has replied see below |
| Jyoti Gondek | NO REPLY |
| Paul Michael Hallelujah | Has replied see below |
| Zac Hartley | NO REPLY |
| Larry Heather | NO REPLY |
| Dean Hopkins | NO REPLY |
| Kevin J. Johnston | NO REPLY |
| Randall Kaiser | NO REPLY |
| Zaheed Ali Khan | NO REPLY |
| Cory Lanterman | NO REPLY |
| Zane Novak | NO REPLY |
| Teddy Ogbonna | Has replied see below |
| Mizanur Rahman | NO REPLY |
| Geoff Rainey | NO REPLY |
| Adam Roberts | Has replied see below |
| Sunny Singh | NO REPLY |
| Virginia Stone | Has replied see below |
| Will Vizor | NO REPLY |
| Stan the Man Waciak | NO REPLY |
| Shaoli Wang | Has replied see below |
| Grace Yan | NO REPLY |

Thanks

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**James Desautels Mayoral Candidate**

Hello Yves,

Thank you for reaching out.

I used to live in Oakridge and went to Weaselhead daily.

I support keeping our nature spaces.

They are so vital to human evolution and health.

Thank you and be well,

James Desautels

Calgary Mayoral Candidate

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**Jeromy Farkas Mayoral Candidate**

**Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

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***Question 1 (100 words)***

**What is your vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?**

As your area Councillor, a daily enjoyer of the park, and a former board director of the WGPPS, I have an intense and personal appreciation for the work you do. I’ve been there with you, “deep in the weeds,” and I support a stronger, formalized relationship with the City.

If elected mayor, I will continue to strongly champion you, the Pathway and River Cleanup, the Citizen Scientist project, the Invasive Plant Program, the Ring Road Impact Study team, and your many other efforts to meet curriculum needs to hundreds of adults and thousands of schoolchildren through the typical year.

***Question 2 (100 words)***

**Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society ( This is open ended as long as it deals with the Parks )**

The recent decision by councillors Gondek, Davison, and others to begin selling off Richmond Green Park for development sends the wrong message about how we value our green spaces. Sights are now being set on other parks throughout the city as revenue sources.

This must not continue. Our city parks are precious and we have a duty to protect them. I’ll work to conserve, preserve, and expand our cherished parks system, rather than open it up to short-sighted condo development. On October 18, I am asking for your vote to send a message that our parks are not for sale.

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Replies to:

Yves Dansereau

president@theweaselhead.com

Thanks

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**Brad Field Mayoral Candidate**

**Weaselhead/ Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

**Questionnaire Response: Brad Field**

Question 1 (100 words)

What is your vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?

Sustainability is an important pillar of my platform. I view our parks as an environmental asset as well as a quality of life asset and do not want to see them paved over. Giving citizens access to parks such as the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park ensures that Calgary is a 21st Century sustainable city. Therefore, I want the City and organizations like yours to have a positive, collaborative partnership with mutual benefits.

Question 2 (100 words)

Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society ( This is open ended as long as it deals with the Parks )

I recognize that parks like the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park are not only important natural spaces, they are important for our mental health, sense of community and environmental sustainability. They connect us to Calgary and create a good quality of life that makes people want to come here, to make their homes here.

Groups like the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society help create and foster that sense of community and connectedness by engaging with Calgarians and encouraging them to enjoy the Park. That’s why I value organizations like yours so much.

For more information: Brad Field website – www.VoteBradField.ca

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**Emile Gabriel Mayoral Candidate**

Dear Yves,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the issue of  Weaselhead /Glenmore Park preservation.

My reply to your question is actually simpler than what you might expect.

I lived in Calgary for more than 30 years, and I live very close to Weaselhead /Glenmore Park. For many years I have walked in the park, enjoyed all that it has to offer, from the fresh air to the green space, the trees and the many birds and animals.

**1- My position is very simple: we need to preserve and protect the fauna and flora in the Park.**

**2- I am also in agreement with your vision that individuals, communities, and governments recognize the Weaselhead as an important natural area that connects people with nature, and work collaboratively to embrace and protect it.**

You  should also know that as a professional manager with more than 20 years’ experience in management, and as your new mayor, I will be implementing a new management system and a process that:

- Will give a more active role to community associations.

- Requires councillors to conduct sufficient town hall meetings and use all available technologies to inform, educate and democratically represent the prevailing wishes of their communities.

This system will allow us to find out the overall preference by Calgarians, and we will make our decisions democratically, not leaving them to the whim of some councillors or the bureaucrats.

Emile Gabriel

Mayoral candidate

Website: <https://www.emile4calgarymayor.com/>

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**Paul Michael Hallelujah Mayoral Candidate**

Hi Yves, thank you for your email.

Here's what I've got so far:

1) Growing up in Parkland as a boy the Fish Creek Park system was a treasure trove of deer, cliffs to climb and eaters to navigate with friends on inner tubes - I'm sure any child, family or Calgarians would agree it's a gold mine.

2) As a user of the Glenmore Reservoir Park system while attending Elboya Jr. High School, I recall cycling around the reservoir with our class. It was too much fun!  In high school we started and finished our Terry Fox Run at the reservoir - unforgettable memories. I am fully in support of your cause now and in the future.

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**Teddy Ogbonna Mayoral Candidate**

Hi Yves,

Thanks for reaching out to Teddy’s campaign regarding the issue of Weaselhead /Glenmore Park preservation.

Question 1. Vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?

|  |
| --- |
| Teddy’s vision is to support community associations and lead in partnership to protecting our parks. Teddy believes that our parks and the entire ecosystem within City of Calgary needs to be preserved and protected period and not commercialized. |
| Question 2. Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society. Teddy believes that Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society and other related groups should be on same page as regards to the protection of our parks, this is for our children and younger generation and not to compromise special interest offers in our municipal development plan with our environmental sustainable strategies. Teddy OgbonnaMayoral candidate Website:https://www.teddy4calgary.ca |

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**Adam Roberts Mayoral Candidate**

Thank you for your questions Yves,

Pleas see my responses below:

***Question 1 (100 words)***

**What is your vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?**

As a resident of Calgary for 40 years growing up beside Fish Creek Park in the south east. I agree with the preservation of our city parks.  I also want the people of Calgary to enjoy the parks as I did growing up.  I would look toward a balanced approach between preservation and human interaction.  Working with the WGPPS for city agendas that could impact the park.  While I am not a fan of new regulations that restrict the use of park land (I do want people to enjoy it versus 'looking at it through a pane of glass').  With new technologies and proper consultation any future impacts should be able to be mitigated.

***Question 2 (100 words)***

**Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society**

While I did not grow up in that area of Calgary, I did have friends that did.  It is a beautiful area.  It is also here I first learnt how to sail =D

Many Regards,

Adam Roberts

[adamroberts.ca](http://adamroberts.ca/)

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**Virginia Stone Mayoral Candidate**

Thank you for your email, and for the opportunity to share my thoughts and vision with your community.

As per your request, please find the answers below, to your questions:

Question #1 –

If I am elected as the city’s next Mayor, I will protect the environment, parks, and greenspaces. Under NO circumstances should Calgary parks and green spaces be sold. We have too few as it is. I will defend, protect, and bring in new legislation to care for our riparian areas, waterways, flora and fauna. I have an aggressive green strategy that will include new green spaces, green rooftops, bee projects and community gardens. The city must support and incentivize projects and organizations like the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society.

Question #2 –

As a forward-thinking sustainable leader and entrepreneur, I have always partnered with and supported sustainability-minded organizations, working together towards a healthy future for our planet. I incorporate a green philosophy both in my platform for Mayor and as an entrepreneur. I contribute to and support environmental rejuvenation projects around the world, am a Brand Ambassador for the Big Blue Ocean Project and a member of the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society and OneTree Planted. I am passionate about protecting and preserving our green spaces, parks, and disappearing forests. I believe that all forms of life deserve respect and protection.

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**Shaoli Wang Mayoral Candidate**

**What is your vision for the future of the Parks and the relationship in between the City and its governance of the parks with the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society?**

**Answer:** The City has a record of pushing through development plans disregard communities’ voices, townhall meetings become symbolic. The driven force is the City’s out-of-controlled spending which deemed the City unwilling to leave our parks green.

We all know what is right, budget pushes us wrong

A decade long tax hike was unable to resolve the City’s budget issue, here is why:

Compared with 2003, between 2011-2019, municipal over inflation and population growth property tax cumulated $4.6 billion, while city’s over inflation and population salary increase cumulated $4.8 billion, 100% of the property tax hike goes to City’s overpaid salary.

**Write your comments about the Parks and/or the Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society ( This is open ended as long as it deals with the Parks )**

**Answer:** All levels of our government claim to protect the environment, while we are losing parks in our city and provincial wide. The root issue is always our governments’ budgeting incapability, but excuses were often provided way beyond budget.

The City must fix its own salary/staffing/spending problem: compared with 2003, in 2019 alone, City’s over inflation and population salary increase was $520 million, there is huge negative efficiency growth during the 16-year span.

Before we fix the spending issue, our parks will stay in danger.

We all know what is right, budget pushes us wrong.

**I take the onus.**

**Shaoli Wang**

**www.shaoliw.com**