

# Norman Paulsen

Candidate for Mayor of Halton Hills  
Halton Region

*The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.*

**Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?**

**A:** Lack of, or affordability issues pertaining to housing, is governed by the basic economics of supply and demand. At a municipal level we can look to streamline the process currently in place to encourage developers.

**Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?**

**A:** Energy? Let's use less! The municipality has to set an example. Look for inefficiencies like shutting off unnecessary lighting - we don't need every street light on. So let's use less energy and look for inefficiencies throughout our community and throughout our households.

**Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?**

**A:** Volunteerism! It needs to become less of a loose concept of something we have to do - like community hours for high schoolers - it needs to become more of a common goal in our day to day lives. Let's encourage it. We need to all get involved - to make what happens outside our front door something we're a part of. There are so many benefits to volunteerism and this vision needs to be promoted. Once this happens it will be to the betterment of

the whole community.