

*October 20, 2018 Letter to the Editor  
Kingston Whig Standard*

### **City needs people living downtown**

I have been following the election closely and have just read Ben Pilon's letter to the editor. I could not agree more.

I have been on the heritage committee for many years and have been involved with many heritage projects. I love our city and its unique heritage, but we need to keep our economy healthy and for this, we need good viable development.

I have seen the downtown several times over the years go through growing pains where there are many empty stores, etc. and have seen it bounce back. Times are different now. Aside from the draws of the big plazas and box stores, people are now buying more and more on line and taking away from the viability of downtown retail. We need people living downtown to keep our city core alive and well.

I keep hearing from the same group of very well meaning people who are opposed to any real development and basically say no to everything and brush all developers with the same 'evil' brush. I think this is nonsense.

I think having Vicki Schmolka as mayor would be a divisive economic disaster.

No council is or ever will be perfect, but I think that Mayor Bryan Paterson has done a very good job. He is open-minded and listens to all views and I think he deserves our support for another four years.

*Mac Gervan*

*Kingston*