



Ward 1 ~ Chedoke – Cootes

Report to the Community
from
Councillor Brian McHattie
September 2005



Hamilton

Dear Resident

Welcome back from your summer activities. I hope you had a chance to take a break and enjoy the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the past year's activities as well as let you know about the work that will be taking place this year in the three Ward 1 neighbourhoods (**Ainslie Wood Westdale, Kirkendall, and Strathcona**). In addition, I will briefly describe some of the citywide activities that I am working on.

I should note that this is my first newsletter, as our Ward budget has not allowed for one before this. However, we have been working diligently on ensuring that my website (www.brianmchattie.ca) is current and chock-full of information. You can have a look at what committees I sit on and see my activities on a weekly basis. All upcoming meetings in the Ward are posted as are news items that we hope Ward 1 residents would be interested in. We have also provided some space for the three neighbourhood associations to post their meetings and newsletters. Check it out and let us know what you think!

We will soon be ready to launch our email listserv function, so I am planning to keep you informed more regularly via email. You will be able to sign up through the website by clicking on the link on the Home Page.

Our office is very busy. The following outlines many of the activities going on in each neighbourhood in the ward. However, it doesn't describe all the work done on your behalf by my assistants Kay Morden and Dale Brown, who looks after your individual issues so well. Thanks Kay and Dale!

Ainslie Wood Westdale

The Ainslie Wood Westdale community stretches from the Dundas border in the west to Highway 403 and from the Ancaster border and escarpment to McMaster University and Cootes Paradise. Student housing issues dominate in this area. The key to making improvements in this area has been a strong partnership between the City, the Ainslie Wood Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners (AWWCA), the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, the McMaster Student Union, McMaster University and Hamilton Police Services.

Our focus has been on encouraging the development of

appropriate student housing, providing safe student housing, improving property standards, reducing the negative impacts of absentee landlords, and reducing noise, graffiti and property damage issues caused by some of our temporary residents.

New Initiatives

A number of new initiatives have been put in place this past year including **i)** McMaster's Housing Review Program, **ii)** increased police support on Friday and Saturday nights (paid for by McMaster), **iii)** the formation of the Campus Town Association (a partnership of AWWCA, Westdale Village BIA and McMaster University to create a first class campus town), **iv)** a Community Enhancement Report to report not only problems, but

also to recognize well-maintained properties and good-neighbour relations, and **v)** the formation of a new provincial organization called Town and Gown Association of Ontario (TGAO) which will provide support to all municipalities where universities or colleges are located.

There are also over 350 new units being planned for student housing at the former CNIB, the Main West Plaza and the new residence at McMaster.

Traffic around schools

We have also been working with G.R. Allan school and Temple Anshe Shalom to create a safer environment for students walking to school.

Projects scheduled for Ainslie Wood Westdale in 2005 include:

- completion of the Secondary Plan and Community Strategy (approved by Council on July 13) and establishment of an Implementation Task Force to work on the recommendations
- installation of a pedestrian-activated signal on Cootes Drive at Sanders Blvd.
- reconstruction of Main Street West between Gary Ave. and Cootes Drive, including a new McMaster entrance at Emerson
- new bike racks at G.R. Allan school
- new bike racks in Westdale Village
- repairs to the former West Hamilton landfill site
- reconstruction of Kay Drage Park to include two new baseball diamonds and three new soccer fields
- improvements to Coronation Park Arena
- design of a splash pad at Churchill Park
- tree planting at Churchill Park
- OPPI (Ontario Professional Planners' Institute) will be conducting a design guidelines workshop in September for intensification of Main Street West, as directed by the Secondary Plan

Kirkendall

The Kirkendall neighbourhood stretches from Highway 403 east to Queen Street South and is bordered on the south by the Escarpment and on the north by Main Street West.

This past year, I regularly attended the meetings of the **Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association**. I also attended meetings on an as needed-basis of the **Dundurn Street Merchant** and **Locke Street Merchant Associations**. The **Main Street West Business Improvement Area** is also part of this neighbourhood. They all work on your behalf to improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood; please consider supporting them.

Golf Courses/Ski Hill

I am sitting on a committee that will be looking at proposals to run the Kings Forest and Chedoke (Beddoe & Martin) Golf Courses. While it is not yet clear whether reopening the Chedoke Winter Sports Park will be feasible, it is being included in the proposals.

Poulette Railway Bridge

At the request of a number of residents, we are looking into the possibility of rebuilding the bridge over the railway tracks on Poulette Avenue for pedestrians.

220 Dundurn Street

We continue to work with the City's Economic Development and Planning departments to develop the building at 220 Dundurn Street South. Garbage and long grass has been an on-going problem; arrangements have been made to proactively inspect the property on a bi-weekly basis.

Library in CIBC building?

We recently organized a charette attended by a number of local architects to re-examine the merits of using the former CIBC building at the corner of Locke and Herkimer as a library branch. We will be holding a public meeting in September at the Locke Branch to report back on the outcome. Check the website for dates.

Former CAMCO site

As you probably know, McMaster has purchased the former CAMCO site on Longwood Road South to create the **McMaster Innovation Park**. I am sitting on the Development Steering Committee which is working on the plans for the site. I am hopeful that there will be significant opportunities for the public to provide input into these plans.

The City of Hamilton has also announced a land use review for the **West Hamilton Industrial Area**, which includes the CAMCO site. There will be a number of opportunities for public input.

Innovation Park Announcement

(photo credit – Chantall Van Raay)



Projects scheduled for Kirkendall in 2005 include:

- a neighbourhood traffic study
- installation of a new stoplight at Dundurn and Herkimer (installation date to be determined)
- reconstruction of the bridge on Dundurn Street South over the railway tracks (**NOTE:** this construction has now been delayed until 2006) - Dundurn Street will be closed at the bridge for approximately 3 months;
- resurfacing of Studholme Road, including a new sidewalk
- continued design work to create a bicycle pathway through or around the CP Aberdeen Railyard

Strathcona

The Strathcona neighbourhood stretches from Highway 403 east to Queen Street North and is bordered on the south by Main Street West and on the north by the Bayfront.

I regularly attended the meetings of the **Strathcona Community Council**, which are open to the community. They work on your behalf to improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood; please consider supporting them.

Good Shepherd Property
I have been meeting with **Good Shepherd** and our staff on a regular basis to monitor the

progress of the shelter for abused women at the former Loretto site and to confirm that the conditions set out in the Ontario Municipal Board decision are met. A community liaison committee will soon be set up to deal with on-going issues and a public meeting will be held in the fall to bring the community up-to-date.

Victoria Park
We have started a community-based Park Master Plan, which will continue into 2006. Some preliminary drawings have been created as a result of a public meeting held in the spring. More public meetings will follow.

Suggestions include removing one baseball diamond, redeveloping the bocce courts, improving the King St. entrance and repairing the multi-use courts and the trails. No decisions have been made yet. However, the grandstand will be removed by the end of the summer.

Tonnes for Trees
Congratulations to Strathcona School for leading the way in Environment Hamilton's Tonnes for Trees challenge to cut greenhouse gases by 607 tonnes! Kirkendall, Westdale and Strathcona neighbourhoods also participated. Each participant will get one tree.

Projects scheduled for Strathcona in 2005 include:

- resurfacing of Victoria Park tennis courts
- removal of the baseball grandstand at Victoria Park
- new bike racks at Victoria Park, adjacent to Strathcona School
- a study to create a Heritage Conservation District for the area bounded by Napier, King, Peel and Ray streets
- a study to look at the future of the Valley Inn Road bridge
- Dundurn Castle renovations
- completion of Setting Sail Secondary Plan (includes Barton-Tiffany area)



City-wide Activities

In addition to working on your behalf on Ward issues, I also work on behalf of all citizens across the city. I sit on the Planning and Economic Development Committee, I am chair of the Social and Public Health Services Committee, Chair of HABIA (Hamilton Association of Business Improvement Areas), Vice-Chair of the Strategic Planning and Budgets Committee and President of CityHousing, which provides affordable housing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

CBC Task Force

We are working to establish a CBC radio station in Hamilton

Niagara Escarpment Commission

I am the City of Hamilton representative

Poverty Task Force

I represent Council on this multi-stakeholder task force

City of Hamilton/CPR Liaison Committee

- Chair of the committee
- met for the first time in Fall 2005
- Ward 1 citizens represented by Linda Dayler, Christine Feaver and Debra Strubb
- mandate is to work on solutions to railway issues across the city

Trees Across Hamilton

- I initiated a partnership between the City, Green Venture and Environment Hamilton to initiate a tree planting program across the city
- spring planting has been completed with 4000 trees planted in nine wards, including Ward 1
- in addition, 463 street trees have been planted in our ward

Hamilton Trees Foundation

- working with a variety of partners to create a Hamilton Trees Foundation, modelled after the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation
- concept is to work in partnership with corporations, foundations, private donors, and community groups to fundraise for trees to be planted across Hamilton

VIA Rail Task Force

- working to bring Via Rail back to Hamilton
- includes three city councillors, the Mayor, representatives from the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Hamilton, the Hamilton Port Authority, a civilian transit advisory group, and three citizens at large
- recommending that the station be located in downtown Hamilton

Transit Master Plan Steering Committee

- Chair of the committee
- developing a Transit Growth and Asset Management Plan for transit in Hamilton
- provide advice and recommendation to Public Works, Infrastructure and Environment Committee respecting future provincial and federal gas tax allocations

Pesticide Sub-Committee

- Chair of the committee
- working on a bylaw to reduce the use of pesticides in the city
- public consultation has begun to get input on whether the cosmetic use of pesticides on private residential property should be controlled or banned and whether public education is enough to reduce pesticide use

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Please contact me with your ideas for Ward 1!