



# Ward 1 ~ Chedoke – Cootes

Report to the Community  
from  
Councillor Brian McHattie  
December 2009



## Hello Ward 1!

Much of my work consists of day-to-day problem solving in the Ward, combined with decision-making on City business on a myriad of committees. I meet with our neighbourhood associations in Ainslie Wood Westdale, Kirkendall, and Strathcona once or more per month, and host many community meetings on topics of interest. From these contacts and many hundreds more monthly emails and phone calls, I get feedback from you, and represent Ward 1 with a good general understanding of your vision for Ward 1.

However I value the opportunity to check in with you on a regular basis to make sure we're in synch with each other. I've provided a quick summary of my vision for Ward, as a place with *the most sustainable neighbourhoods in Hamilton*.

### What is meant by "sustainability"?

One of my early forays into municipal vision-making began as a member of the Task Force on Sustainable Development in 1990, authors of Vision 2020, our award-winning sustainability strategy. I began to learn about sustainability which can only be achieved through an illusive balance of economic, social, and environmental actions. See [www.hamilton.ca/ProjectsInitiatives/V2020](http://www.hamilton.ca/ProjectsInitiatives/V2020).

In the ensuing years, I've thought a lot about sustainability and related concepts such as localization and reducing ecological footprints. I've expanded on these concepts below and indicated how they relate to Ward 1.

**Localisation** can mean ensuring that monies are recirculated as many times as possible in the community by shopping at our local retail areas on Locke Street and Westdale Village (particularly at Christmas time), as well as on Dundurn, Main and King Streets. It can also mean growing our own food by creating more community gardens, and supporting the Saturday morning farmers' market in Westdale Village. Our community is comprised of many artisans and we can support the local Makers' Market at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Westdale.

**Lowering our Ecological Footprint** means supporting cycling, walkability, and public transit. We already have a great bus system in Ward 1, and if approved, light rail transit will travel along King and/or Main Streets. Our bike lane system is the best in the City and walkability plans for all three neighbourhoods are underway. Supporting housing intensification projects avoids urban sprawl, while adding more vitality in the form of new people and ideas to Ward 1. The creation of more sustainable jobs includes full support for the McMaster Innovation Park and protection of the West Hamilton Innovation District lands as a research park. Area greenspace such as the Royal Botanical Gardens' lands is critical to storing carbon thereby reducing greenhouse gases, and maximizing biodiversity.

These are just a few examples of ways to think about Ward 1 as the most sustainable community in Hamilton. What are your ideas that would help promote sustainability in Strathcona, Kirkendall, and Ainslie Wood Westdale?

## Ward 1 Issues

### **West Town Crime Manager – Thank you Jo-Ann, Hello Tina**

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Sergeant Jo-Ann Savoie, the Ward 1 Crime Manager for the past two years. Jo-Ann has immersed herself in neighbourhood issues and has volunteered numerous hours to support activities in all three Ward One neighbourhoods. Her contribution is really appreciated. We would like to welcome Sergeant Tina Potter, who will be assuming the role of Crime Manager for West Town starting in January. Tina is currently the Crime Manager for North Town. She can be reached at 905-540-5093 or tpotter@hamiltonpolice.on.ca. Welcome Tina!

### **Innovation Park Lands – Ontario Municipal Board Appeal (OMB)**

In October, the City of Hamilton was advised that Trinity Developments had withdrawn their OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) appeal of the Research Park Official Plan Amendment. This means that their big box vision is not going ahead. We want to thank the Kirkendall

Neighbourhood Association, the Ainslie Wood Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners, the Westdale BIA and the Locke Street BIA for their work in defending the City's plan.

### **Longwood Road Schedule C - Class Environmental Assessment**

This study is scheduled to begin in 2010 and will look at reconfiguring Longwood Road between Aberdeen Ave and Main Street West to be more bike and pedestrian friendly and to co-ordinate with the McMaster Innovation Park. Public meetings will be held as part of the process.



Remembrance Day

### **Multi-use Trail between Leland Street and Chedoke Avenue**

The City has been working with Canadian Pacific Railways (CP) for the past few years to create a multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists in Ainslie Wood. The trail will connect the Ainslie Wood neighbourhood, south of McMaster University, with the Kirkendall Neighbourhood on the east side of Hwy 403. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in spring 2010.

There are two segments of the trail: **i)** a paved 5 metre wide trail between the Fortinos (on Main Street West at Rifle Range Road) and the western end of Studholme Road, on the east side of Hwy 403. This trail will run along the side of

the Aberdeen Rail Yard and is planned to be illuminated. It will connect with the existing Hamilton-Brantford Rail Trail in Dundas Valley; **ii)** a paved 4.5 metre wide trail through the Chedoke Golf Course between the Studholme Rd/Aberdeen Ave intersection and the Chedoke Ave/Glenside Ave intersection. This trail is NOT planned to be illuminated.

Both trails will be cleared of snow in the winter. In conjunction with the trail construction, the Studholme Rd/Aberdeen Ave intersection will be signalized to make the intersection safer for pedestrians, cyclists and turning motor vehicles.

## Ward 1 Leash Free Park

We continue to experience challenges in the operation of the Ward 1 Leash Free Park on Hill Street including some conflicts between dog owners and families using the playground equipment. In September, Council approved a motion which amends the leash free hours **on a pilot project basis**, to 11:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. to try to spread out the usage of the park over more hours. We are also trying to find a way to

physically separate the playground from the leash free park. We would ask all dog owners to respect the leash free hours, to make sure that they are in control of their dogs at all times and to clean up after their dogs. We would like to thank the work of the Leash Free Park Volunteer Committee who work on improving the leash free experience.

## Street tree planting program – deadline for spring planting

January 15, 2010 is the deadline to request a tree for the spring tree planting and June 15 is the deadline for tree planting in the fall. Choose from a list of available tree species and complete an on-line request form at [www.hamilton.ca/treeplanting](http://www.hamilton.ca/treeplanting) or call 905-546-CITY (2489) for more information.



## Light Rail Transit

The City's Rapid Transit Team continues to move forward with planning for rapid transit in Hamilton, with a focus on Light Rail Transit (LRT) between McMaster University and Eastgate Square. The Province, through Metrolinx, is expected to contribute significant capital dollars towards rapid transit plans for Hamilton. The exact timing and funding amount has yet to be determined. A recommendation is expected from Metrolinx in January/February 2010. As we await an announcement from Metrolinx about Hamilton's rapid transit future, our Rapid Transit Team has been working hard

on completing the necessary studies and plans and consulting with all impacted stakeholders

Preliminary design work will accelerate in the new year, as will our public consultation and outreach program. Our Rapid Transit Team believes strongly in the importance of public consultation and input. Please contact us at [rapidtransit@hamilton.ca](mailto:rapidtransit@hamilton.ca) or 905-546-2424 ext. 2553 if you would like more information regarding the project. You may also visit the project website at [www.hamilton.ca/rapid-transit](http://www.hamilton.ca/rapid-transit).

## Pan Am Games

Hamilton and the GTA will be hosting the Pan Am games in 2015. The City of Hamilton committed to an expenditure of \$60 million which will leave Hamilton with a legacy of a multi-purpose stadium, a 50 metre swimming pool, and an international-calibre velodrome.

## CityHousing Hamilton

As part of my City Council duties, I am President of CityHousing Hamilton (CHH). Maintaining our existing buildings is critical, but we also create new affordable housing. We have focused on improving downtown housing with construction of the Gore Building (John & King Streets), and are now working on an exciting artists' live-work development at 95 King Street. Check out our work at [www.cityhousinghamilton.com](http://www.cityhousinghamilton.com).

## *Ainslie Wood & Westdale Neighbourhoods*

The Ainslie Wood Westdale community stretches from the Dundas and Ancaster borders in the west to Highway 403 in the east.

### **Ainslie Wood Westdale Transportation Master Plan – 5 year review**

In 2003, the City completed a Transportation Master Plan study for the Ainslie Wood and Westdale neighbourhoods. Some of the recommendations of that study have been implemented. Five years have passed since the approval and, as the Municipal Class EA requires, a review of the study is required. This study will be undertaken in 2010 and is intended to address all the transportation problems inclusive of all the previous and current ones. Public meetings will be scheduled to give you an opportunity to provide your input.

### **Churchill Park**

The Churchill Park Master Plan process is tentatively scheduled to start in 2010. A Master Plan is a process which reviews existing park programs, conditions of existing trees, condition of existing infrastructure and incorporates input from both park users and the public at large. The new park master plan will establish a park vision for the future and identify the strategy for implementation of capital construction. This plan will also allow us to evaluate options for re-purposing the lawn bowling facility grounds (we've already heard ideas such as tennis).

In the meantime, there will be an ice rink this winter and there will be kids' soccer next summer on the former lawn bowling greens. In addition, a new group called the "*Friends of Churchill Park*" has recently been formed to facilitate and manage the space located within the current Churchill Park Lawn Bowling location for its use by the community. To learn more about Friends of Churchill, visit [www.friendsofchurchillpark.ca](http://www.friendsofchurchillpark.ca) or email [info@friendsofchurchillpark.ca](mailto:info@friendsofchurchillpark.ca).

### **Dalewood Recreation Centre**

The City of Hamilton has been working on a Feasibility Study for the recreation centre. The draft recommendations are to build a brand new recreation centre attached to Dalewood School, complete with a new pool (with therapeutic tank), double gym, family change rooms, and more program and gathering space (including for seniors). There is also the possibility of building seniors housing above. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2012-2013.



Councillor McHattie at the Maker's Market in Westdale

### **Rental Housing Licensing Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

In October, the CLC made a number of recommendations to the Economic Development and Planning Committee, including an 18-month proactive bylaw enforcement pilot program, creation of a rental housing registry, and a voluntary landlord certification program. City staff are reporting back on these ideas in February. Other municipalities such as Oshawa, London, and St. Catharines are taking different actions and I am working with the City Manager to determine how we can take similar action in Hamilton.

## **Ainslie Wood North (AWN) Collective**

In the summer of 2009, at my request, Ryan Moran, past McMaster Student Union president, initiated the Ainslie Wood North (AWN) Collective to work on finding ways for students and permanent residents in the Ainslie Wood North neighbourhood (north of Main Street West, west of Cootes Paradise) to work together to create a more cohesive neighbourhood. A walkabout to meet residents as well as a garage sale were held in September and another meeting was held in October to formalize the organization. Visit the website at

[www.awngroup.com](http://www.awngroup.com). If you want to be added to the AWN email list, send your name and address to [dale.brown@hamilton.ca](mailto:dale.brown@hamilton.ca). Our next step is to ask the AWWCA Block Captains and the MSU Community Resource Assistants to work together on joint strategies.



AWN Garage Sale

## **Coronation Arena**

In consultation with the local hockey association, improvements have been made to the arena including a girl's change room, new boards, better humidity control, and roof repairs. Federal/Provincial stimulus funding has been received which will be used for additional improvements. A community meeting will be held in early 2010 to gain feedback on this.

## **Purpose Built Student Housing**

The 550 student development at 17 Ewen Road is on hold due to concerns expressed by adjacent Cadburys. A 220 student housing development between Carling and King Streets will begin construction this summer. Apart from smaller developments (i.e., 20 student complex on Strathcona Avenue North), no other applications have been received.

## **Ainslie Wood Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners (AWWCA)**

The AWWCA is working hard on your behalf. Visit [www.awwca.ca](http://www.awwca.ca) for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, contact John Wagle, President at [waglej@simpsonwagle.com](mailto:waglej@simpsonwagle.com) or call Councillor McHattie's office and we will forward your name to them.

## *Kirkendall Neighbourhood*

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

## **Pedestrian Bridges**

As you may recall, Public Works staff did not support rebuilding a pedestrian bridge at Poulette Street. However staff gave me the go-ahead to work with McMaster's Civil Engineering department to develop designs and an implementation strategy. The graduate student doing this work has just defended her thesis and we should have the designs soon.

## **Bike Lanes on Dundurn Street between Aberdeen Avenue and Main Street West**



Bike lanes will be implemented in spring 2010. Parking will be removed on the east side of the street. I have been working with staff to find new parking spots along Dundurn and, with their assistance, we have been successful in reducing the net loss of spots to approximately 12 spaces (from the original 25 spaces). Cycling is a growing transportation

option in cities all over the world, including Hamilton.

I recognize that parking is still a challenge; therefore parking will be changing to permanent one side parking on Charlton Ave. West between Dundurn and Locke, on Homewood Ave. between Dundurn and Locke, and on Stanley Ave. between Dundurn and MacDonald. This will create an additional 38 parking spots in the neighbourhood.

## **Controlling speed on Stanley Ave. between Queen and Kent**

We have been working with staff and the residents of Stanley between Queen and Kent to explore the installation of speed humps in order to slow down traffic which uses Stanley to travel west instead of using Aberdeen. Letters were delivered to the residents and we are still awaiting the results. We are also exploring prohibiting left hand turns from Queen to Stanley during rush hours. Again, no decision has been made yet.

## **Queen Street Hill Improvements**

Following a community meeting concerning the number of accidents on the Queen Street Hill, traffic improvements have recently been implemented including Hamilton's first median rumble strip. More improvements will follow with a road re-build to occur in 2012 or so.



Poverty Roundtable receives a Canadian Urban Institute Award

## **Highland Gardens Park Pumping Station Construction**

There are three components to this project: rehabilitation of the Hillcrest Reservoir (scheduled to start in February 2010), the Hillcrest Avenue Watermain Extension (scheduled to start in Fall 2010) and the Highland Garden Park Pumping Station (scheduled to start in January 2011). The PIC held on December 15 provided information on all three projects. A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) has been formed and met in

early December. Its purpose is to communicate information about, and obtain input on, topics related to the pumping station design and construction, such as project scope, timing, construction sequencing, pumping station aesthetics, and park accessibility during construction. It will be monitoring the other two projects as well. A project website will be developed shortly.

## **427 Aberdeen – Development Collaborative Committee**

The owner of the condominium development at 427 Aberdeen (on the site of the former Tim Hortons at Dundurn & Aberdeen) will be working with our office to form a Development Collaborative Committee in the new year to

provide a venue for feedback and comment as the design of the site continues. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact our office.

## 220 Dundurn Street South (across from the Beer Store)

I have met several times with the owner to encourage development of this site. We haven't seen any formal plans yet but use of the existing building for residential condominiums (similar to the previous Loffts project) and consideration of additional housing on the Chatham Street frontage is being considered. Municipal Law Enforcement visit the site regularly to check for garbage, graffiti and unsafe entry.

## Public Art Project on Locke Street

Thank you to everyone who voted for their favourite public art selection. Simon Frank's proposal Concrete Poetry has been officially selected by the volunteer jury to receive the \$40,000 commission. The jury and Culture Division staff extend their appreciation and thanks to all of the artists that submitted proposals especially the other finalists, Philip Toms for hOley pOley, and Bryce Kanbara and Brian Kelly for Untitled. For more information including the Jury Report, visit [www.hamilton.ca/arts/lockestreet](http://www.hamilton.ca/arts/lockestreet).

## Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association

The Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association is working hard on your behalf and has been very active this year. Visit [www.kirkendallhood.ca](http://www.kirkendallhood.ca) for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Mary Lou Reiman, President at [mlr.reiman@gmail.com](mailto:mlr.reiman@gmail.com) or call Councillor McHattie's office and we will forward your name to them.

## *Strathcona Neighbourhood*

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

## Good Shepherd Square

As you know, construction has started on the Good Shepherd Square. We have been experiencing challenges with construction traffic not keeping to the designated routes and trees unexpectedly being removed (note that Good Shepherd is assessed a substantial fee for every tree they remove that is supposed to be preserved). These fees will be used to plant trees in the Strathcona neighbourhood. The CLC continues to meet and has requested an updated Tree Preservation Plan. Good Shepherd has agreed to post the plans on their website, but so far this has not happened.

Hamilton Police Services  
Community Safety Forum –  
April 2009



## Strathcona Secondary Plan & Strathcona Transportation Study

Both of these plans are currently on hold until the Province makes its decision on the form and location of Rapid Transit currently proposed for King Street (See the Light Rail Transit item

elsewhere in this newsletter). Visit [www.hamilton.ca/strathcona](http://www.hamilton.ca/strathcona) and [www.hamilton.ca/strathcona-transportation](http://www.hamilton.ca/strathcona-transportation) for more information.

## Victoria Park – Phase 2

This phase will include the creation of a Community Garden (which will be ready for spring planting in late May 2010), a Butterfly Garden, revitalization of the multi-use courts, additional tree planting, and an interpretive sign program that will highlight historical features in and around the park. If the City's capital budget allows, Phase 3 activities including upgraded park entrances, more lighting and additional interpretive signage will occur in 2010-2011. We are also exploring the idea of building a community tearoom at the park to create a community meeting place.

To rent a community garden plot, please contact Ed DeVries - Business Initiatives Coordinator at 905-546-2424 ext. 4819. For more information on the project, visit [www.hamilton.ca/openspace](http://www.hamilton.ca/openspace) and click on **Victoria Park Master Plan**.

## Strathcona Community Council

The Strathcona Community Council is your neighbourhood association and is working hard on your behalf. Visit [strathconacommunity.org](http://strathconacommunity.org) for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Dawn Graham, President at [strathconacommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:strathconacommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or call Councillor McHattie's office and we will forward your name to them.

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**Please contact me with your ideas for Ward 1!**

*To subscribe to our email notices, send an email to [dale.brown@hamilton.ca](mailto:dale.brown@hamilton.ca)  
along with your name and address.*

[www.brianmchattie.ca](http://www.brianmchattie.ca)

**Not a Ward 1 Resident? Some Canada Post delivery areas in L8P and L8R Postal Codes include areas of Ward 2.**