



Ward 1 ~ Chedoke – Cootes

Report to the Community
from
Councillor Brian McHattie
August 2011



Hello Ward 1!

Given the politics of Hamilton City Council, it sometimes feels that nothing moves for months and then suddenly things start coming together. I feel like we are in one of these progressive periods for the City and Ward 1. The new McMaster University Family Medicine complex downtown is a bright light that will spur on more development. Various Ward 1 projects, that we have been working on, are now being implemented such as improvements to park and recreation facilities, better walkability features, and building of infill housing developments.

I am excited about my new roles as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and the City representative on the Royal Botanical Gardens Board, along with my continuing roles on the Poverty Roundtable, as President of CityHousing Hamilton and Vice-Chair of the Public Works Committee, and as Council liaison to the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Immigration Partnership Table, and Anti-Racism, and Cycling Committees.

City Council is focused on achieving low tax increases during our term in office and we accomplished that goal in the 2012 budget with a 1% tax increase, lowest amongst area municipalities. In the Ward 1 office, we are also endeavouring to reduce our costs hence I am only publishing an electronic newsletter this time. Please feel free to pass it on to your friends and neighbours and let them know that they can sign up for our email updates at any time.

I always look forward to your feedback and ideas for making Ward 1 and the City of Hamilton a great place to live.

So, as we near the end of this record-breaking hot summer, let's take a moment to reflect on what we are accomplishing together. I've just provided a summary of activities; more details can be provided on request.

Brian

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.

- **Coronation Pool** - stay cool in the new pool! There are additional improvements still to come including landscaping, signage and more trees.
- **Tennis courts** at Westdale Secondary School – to be refurbished - finally! The tennis courts will be rebuilt in 2012. We'll be holding a public meeting this fall (tentative date is September 21, 7:30 pm at the high school) to show the proposed designs (likely a combination of tennis and multi-use - basketball, street hockey etc.).
- **Dalewood Recreation Centre** reconstruction goes into the design phase in 2012 with construction of a new facility slated for 2013-14.
- **Churchill Park Master Plan** will be completed this fall (an additional public meeting is planned for September/October) and phase one implementation funding will be considered in the 2012 City capital budget.
- The **Teaching Gardens** by the Aviary are being re-built by the community and are looking great (thanks to Mary Louise Pigott and her crew!).
- The former **Lawn Bowling Club building** at Churchill Park is now available to rent for community use, and a community cleanup/refurbishment event is being planned for the fall.
- **School Flashing Lights** have been installed around Westdale High School, making it safer for students crossing Longwood Road and Main Street.
- **Bike lanes** will be restored on Longwood Road between Main and King, once the Highway 403 bridge work (a project of the Ontario Ministry of Ontario, not the city) is completed. Bike lanes on both bridges will be replaced once the construction is complete.
- Thanks to the efforts of the **Westdale Village BIA**, there are new benches, trees, garbage receptacles and sidewalks in the village. New gateway signs have been installed. Stay tuned for information about information kiosks coming soon. Welcome to Donna Reid, the BIA's new Executive Director
- A new **multi-use path** through the CPR railyard and along the former rail line is being constructed to link Kirkendall and places east to west Hamilton – it will link to the existing pathway near Fortinos on Rifle Range Road which heads to Brantford and will be a year-round trail.

Ainslie Wood Westdale Community Association of Resident Homeowners (AWWCA)

The AWWCA is working hard on your behalf. Visit www.awwca.ca for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, contact John Wagle, President at waglej@simpsonwagle.com or call my 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.

- A **pedestrian crossing traffic light** has been approved for Kent Street and Aberdeen Avenue. Thank you to everyone in the community who helped make this happen. The installation date is still to be determined.
- **Speed humps** are being evaluated for Stanley Avenue between Queen Street and Locke Street. A letter will be going out shortly to the residents on Stanley to solicit their opinion.
- A **No left Turn sign** (morning rush hour only in the short term) will be installed next spring to prevent turns from Queen onto Stanley.
- We are continuing to work on changes to the **Queen Street Hill**, including implementing a high friction surface treatment on the bottom curve of Queen in the area of Amelia, reconstruction of the roadway, and a Transportation Demand Management system to encourage residents to reduce vehicle trips.
- Members of the community and I are meeting with Loblaws to discuss transportation improvements to the **Fortinos parking lot** on Dundurn with the aim of improving pedestrian and cycling access.
- A new **HSR transit route** along the length of Dundurn Street is being planned (funding approved in 2011 City budget).
- The remainder of the new **public art poem by Simon Frank** will be installed in the sidewalk on Locke Street in mid-September.
- A new **traffic light** is being installed at Studholme and Aberdeen to link with the new multi-use trail through the CPR rail yard to West Hamilton.
- **Residential Intensification projects** are under construction at the corner of Aberdeen and Dundurn (Urban West Condos), and in the planning stages on Blanshard Street (Allenby Lofts II).
- The **Locke Street Farmers Market** continues to grow. They have formed a partnership with the Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association, so they can access City funding to help them grow – check them out every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 7 pm.
- The **Kirkendall Development Review Committee** continues to monitor new development applications on your behalf. Please contact them if you are interested in participating.
- The Strathcona Transportation Master Plan will be restarting this fall and will include yet another look at making the **Dundurn/Main intersection** safer for pedestrians.

Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association

The Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association is working hard on your behalf and has been very active this year. Visit www.kirkendallhood.ca for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Mary Lou Reiman, President at 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.

- Two new **pedestrian crossing traffic lights** have been installed at Pearl Street North & King Street West, and at Lamoreaux Avenue & Dundurn Street North to improve pedestrian access to the community.
- The **Parks building** by the ball diamond in Victoria Park is being evaluated for re-use as a **café**. Staff have evaluated the condition of the building and an "expression of interest" request will be distributed shortly to ask for ideas from both non-profit and for-profit café operators.
- Phase 3 of the **Victoria Park Master Plan** will be completed with lights, more interpretive panels, and a gazebo. The centre of the park will be re-contoured to re-establish the "soccer" playing area, currently hampered by the drainage plan. It is scheduled to start in early September.
- The **Strathcona Transportation Master Plan and Secondary Plan** will be starting up again this fall – look for notices of the public meetings.
- The "**No Trucks on Dundurn**" prohibition has been in place now for over a year. While truck traffic has decreased, we know that some trucks continue to use this route. If you record the name of the company, the cab number or licence plate number, and the date and time of the infraction, we can follow up.
- Construction at **Good Shepherd Square** is scheduled to be completed this fall. The Women's Centre has already opened and we acknowledge that there have been some growing pains. We're looking forward to the end of construction vehicles in the neighbourhood and to the shifting of parking to the interior of the site.

Strathcona Community Council

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

City-Wide Activities

- Restoration of the **Lister Block** is nearing completion – I went on a tour and it looks beautiful!
- We are investigating giving **urban national park status** to the Cootes to Escarpment lands north of Cootes Paradise.
- **Light Rail Transit** planning is "back on track" with an incremental implementation strategy underway that could see dedicated bus lanes in the short term, working towards full LRT over a 5-10 year period.
- **McMaster University's Family Medicine Department** will be moving downtown to the current Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board location at Bay and Main.
- The **Poverty Roundtable** is working on a report to City Council encouraging adoption of a "living wage".

On-going Challenges

We still have lots of important challenges in Ward 1 and across the city...

- The HWDSB's Elementary and Secondary **Accommodation Review Committees** continue their work – they have recommended closing Prince Philip School in Ainslie Wood. This would very negatively affect that neighbourhood and I'm working with parents, the community, the City and the School Board to make sure all options are considered and to seek a positive solution. Decisions are scheduled for late fall/early winter (2012).
- 220 Dundurn Street South (across from LCBO) is still not re-developed much to our collective dismay. City staff and I continue to meet monthly with the owner to encourage him to bring forward redevelopment plans – we're still waiting!
- There continue to be on-going issues around **student rental housing** in the Ainslie Wood-Westdale neighbourhoods. *Project Compliance* is continuing to monitor property standards issues on a proactive basis. Staff are working on a *near campus strategy* report which is expected to come to Council in the fall.
- **Reducing poverty** continues to be a priority with me and the City. Congratulations to all three neighbourhood associations for your work in alleviating poverty

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So now I ask you: Are these your priorities?

As is the case with every political representative, it is critical to stay in touch with you, so we can work together on what is important for Ward 1 and the City.

I remain focused on the kind of progressive, hopeful politics that I believe many of you support: walkable neighbourhoods, a connected cycling system, improving public transit, new development focused on reusing existing buildings along main streets, parks and recreation that evolve with our community's needs, vibrant retail areas... to name a few.

What are your ideas/challenges/areas of focus? How can you help? Perhaps by joining and participating in one of our vibrant neighbourhood associations, or with organisations like the RBG, or via public committees and meetings - **please let me know!**

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### **Contact Information**

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**Please contact me with your ideas for Ward 1! Visit [www.brianmchattie.ca](http://www.brianmchattie.ca).**

*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.*