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The Durand neighbourhood is the innercity district bounded by Main Street West, James Street South, the Escarpment and Queen Street South. It is home to approximately 12,000 Hamiltonians. The DNA was established in 1972 as a politically independent community organization and chartered as a not-for-profit provincial corporation.

It is the DNA’s vision to be an active, resident-based voice successfully addressing priority issues affecting our neighbourhood to nurture a vibrant downtown community.

Please contact us at any time with questions, comments or concerns in the neighbourhood, or if you are interested in joining or renewing your membership. If you would like to volunteer, or get involved in your community, this is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference.

Contact Information
Durand Neighbourhood Association
c/o 332 Bay Street
Hamilton ON L8P 3J8
905 570 0609
president@durandna.com

Please visit our website at: www.durandna.com

Councillor’s Message
Our Councillor updates us on important issues for the Durand and the City of Hamilton
Bob Bratina

Recently I received census statistics for Ward 2 and thought residents might be interested in what they say about us. I don’t have other Wards so I can’t give direct comparisons yet, but I will break down some of the categories when the information is available. (Source: 2006 Census of Canada - Statistic Canada)

The Ward 2 population is 36,335 which is a slight decrease from the previous Census in 2001, 37,035.

We have about 6300 young people 19 and under. We have 6,325 seniors 60 plus years of age, and of those 435 are 85 years of age or older.

The Marital Status of our residents is as follows: Single 14,500; Married 9,770; Separated but married 1630; Divorced 3,555; Widowed 1,955; Common-law 1,955.

Language spoken by mother tongue is a revelation of our multiculturalism and diversity: 22,800 English, 550 French, and 12,390 “non-official” languages. 59 of these languages are listed, and 785 residents listed “other” languages. Chinese and Portuguese are the top two, Spanish and Arabic close behind. Language groupings are also interesting, such as Slavic–Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, etc., South Asian, South East Asian, African, Aboriginal, etc. The total Aboriginal population of Ward 2 is 1460.

There are 19,430 dwelling units in Ward 2, of which 2,565 are single detached houses, 620 are semi-detached, 740 are row houses and 615 apartment duplexes. The vast majority of our residents live in apartments 10,895 in buildings of 5 or more units; 3,925 in buildings with 4 units or less. Of the 19,430 dwelling units or homes, 5,920 were built before 1946, 11,140 units were built from 1946 to 1980, the period when we lost many great heritage buildings, replaced by the apartment towers, mostly south of Charlton.

Immigration dramatically increased to Ward 2 from 2001 to 2006 by 3,790, compared to 1,580 in the previous 5 years.

Employment numbers are troubling. There are 31,410 “employable” residents 15 and older, of whom 17,030 are employed, 1,720 unemployed, and 12,660 listed as “not in the labour force.” This appears to be an unemployment rate of about 10 per cent, but some research has to be done into the 12,660 others.

I’ll try to do a breakdown of occupations later, since it is quite complicated, but interesting. Sales and Service occupations are the largest single number at 4,880, including such things as chefs and cooks (285), protective services (385), retail sales persons and sales clerks (885). Art and Culture workers number 530. And we have 395 judges, lawyers, psychologists and 1025 teachers and professors. . . . cont. on p. 3
...Councillor’s Message (cont.)
The average income in Ward 2 is $27,130 and the median income is $19,068. However, 6,010 residents make over $40 thousand dollars a year or more, with 2,495 making $60 thousand or more.

9,505 of our residents drive or ride to work in a car, truck, or van. 6,700 of us walk, cycle, ride motorcycles, take cabs, use public transit or “other method” to get to work. The 40 per cent of residents not driving cars to work must be the highest for any Ward in the City.

Sincerely,
Bob Bratina, Councillor, Ward 2
Tel: 905 546 2711,
Fax: 905 546 2535 or
bbratina@hamilton.ca

For more information on Bob’s positions on neighbourhood and City issues, please see www.bobbratina.ca.

President’s Remarks

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” Charles Dickens

Sarah Matthews

The recent change in the weather is encouraging to me. We did not have a particularly harsh winter; in fact, it has been the dubbed the winter that never was. I am nonetheless happy with the fact that it is lighter earlier and later. Planning and preparations have been underway for months in anticipation of the 2010 Grand Durand Garden Tour. This weather means that the event is close at hand. Saturday, June 12th. 10 am to 4 pm. Rain or shine. Read Janice Browns article for details. I recommend purchasing your tickets early. It always sells out. All money raised will into the Durand Park Revitalization Fund.

The DNA is also anticipating the October 2010 municipal election. Every four years we have the privilege of hosting the Mayoral and Ward 2 Councillor debate. It is always a great opportunity to engage not only our fellow neighbours of the Durand, but also our neighbouring neighbourhoods of Corktown, Stinson, Beasley, North End and Central. The debate will take place on Thursday, October 14th at 7 pm at Central Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Charlton and Hess. The DNA will conduct our Annual General Meeting at that event.

Please visit our website at www.durandna.com for more information.

Have a safe and healthy spring!

Community Association have a province-wide organization

DNA supports Ontario’s Federation of Urban Neighborhoods

Janice Brown

The Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (Ontario) came into being at a founding meeting hosted by the Durand Neighbourhood Association of Hamilton on November 24, 2001. This province-wide umbrella organization of community and neighbourhood associations stemmed from common ground found during the May Shaping Ontarios Neighbourhoods 2001 Symposium also hosted by Durand in Hamilton.

Community Associations from Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph and London are charter members of this fledgling organization. The objectives of F.U.N. are to promote awareness of urban issues, undertake projects which will enhance quality of life for residents of urban settings, establish a resource base for information, share expertise, represent the common interests of member organizations before public and private bodies as well as to encourage citizens to actively participate in and become informed about community and civic affairs.

Local associations deal with complex issues every day, including housing (affordable, student, senior etc), transportation, industrial development, economic development, land use planning, bylaw, environmental, health care and taxation issues etc.

According to Gloria McGinn-McTeer of London, first President of the Federation, “The new governance environment resulting in municipalities being granted more responsibility and powers affects neighbourhoods in an ever-widening manner on a daily basis. The learning curve for new community associations, which often form in response to local issues, is very steep. Its critical we support each other and spend our most valuable resource - time - encouraging an imaginative but hardheaded form of civic participation rather than each group re-inventing the wheel. New groups need to hit the ground running. Existing groups need to form partnerships.”

Public participation is a critical component in our democratic society and is taken seriously by many
civic-minded individuals and groups. F.U.N intends to provide some organizational structure to ensure those voices are given due consideration in turn by all levels of government. Issues that F.U.N. has lobbied for include changes to the Ontario Municipal Board, improvements in the Municipal Elections Act, legislation to ban SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against citizen participation), the elimination of corporate and trade union contributions to candidates at the provincial and municipal levels, protection of ground water supplies and the Great Lakes, environmental protections, public transportation improvements and the protection of farm land and forests.

F.U.N aims to establish a system for transferring knowledge, sharing resource materials and evaluating purposes and results of government and non-government initiatives, which affect the quality of life and level of public participation in Ontarios urban neighbourhoods.


For more information about the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario, visit our website at www.urbanneighbourhoods.ca.

Making Hamilton More Walkable

Final report has been published

Nicholas Kevlahan

As I reported in the last issue of the Durander, on November 5 I represented the Durand neighbourhood at the Citys “Making Hamilton More Walkable” meeting. The intention of this meeting was to consolidate the recommendations from the numerous public meetings (including the Pedestrian Summit, and the Durand Walk and Bike for Life workshop whose final report is available at 8-80cities.org/Articles/Durand-FINAL.pdf) as well as expert opinion that have been solicited by the City over the years on how to encourage walking and make being a pedestrian safer, more convenient and more enjoyable.

The final report is now available at http://www.canadawalks.ca/downloads/Hamilton_Case_Study-Final.pdf, and I encourage all Duranders to read this report.

Like all the previous reports, this one lists the advantages of encouraging walking for individuals and the community, and repeats the well-known and straightforward changes that could be made to make walking safer, more convenient and more enjoyable (wider sidewalks, two-way conversion, more pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, . . . ). Unfortunately, instead of forcefully telling the City they need to get on with making the changes, the major recommendation is simply more consultation, and possibly the formation of a pedestrians’ advisory committee, even though the report itself notes that the cycling committee has been singularly unsuccessful in achieving change.

Clearly, these sorts of workshops are more about letting the public vent their frustrations than actually producing real change on the street!

The return of the Grand Durand Garden Tour 2010!

Set to delight once again

Janice Brown, Chair, Grand Durand Garden Tour 2010

Soon you will very likely be seeing the picture on the cover of this newsletter of the Durander around the neighbourhood, and the city for that matter, on posters announcing The Grand Durand Garden Tour 2010.

But as gorgeous as the poster is, it simply isnt as good as the real thing. And of course the real thing is any one of the 10 private gardens that will be open to hundreds of residents and visitors on June 12th 2010.

Planning for this one day has been going on for months. First, gardeners were approached and asked if they would agree to allow the DNA to include their gardens on the tour. By agreeing to take part, they indicated their commitment to the work of the DNA. And of course, all were pleased that the proceeds from the tour would again be dedicated to the ongoing upgrading, care and maintenance of the Durand Park.

Tour proceeds in 2007 contributed to the Purple Park as youngsters and adults alike refer to the new playground equipment. As the old saying goes build it and they shall come and come they did all summer and fall long.

We are currently trying to secure our sponsors and we hope to have them all in place by the time this newsletter goes to print.

We then identified potential sponsors to help cover the costs of planning and running the event. I am pleased to announce that we have our sponsors and most gratifying is that they either live in the neighbourhood or have business in our neighbourhood. Quite remarkable!

Currently our committee is working on selecting ticket outlets, poster outlets and postcard distribution sources as well as securing advertising in newspapers, magazines, radio and TV. And of course, we are looking for volunteers to help out the day of the event.
Tickets in 2007 sold out! So in order to avoid disappointment, we would suggest you move quickly and ensure that you have a ticket. To order your tickets now, please call 905 527-6820. Tickets will go on sale beginning May 1st at selected ticket outlets throughout the City.

Please visit the Durand website for regular updates on The Grand Durand Garden Tour as the summer edition of the newsletter will not be out until the end of May and by that time we could very well be sold out. www.durandna.com

And now a word FOR our sponsors. The next time you need a lawyer, or are selling or buying a house, or in need mortgage money, or are looking for rental properties in the Durand or are considering purchasing a new condo in the Durand, please get in touch with our sponsors. They have all helped to make The Grand Durand Garden Tour possible. Wouldn't it be nice to return the favour.

And last, I would like to thank The Grand Durand Committee Members for all their enthusiasm and efforts to make this once again A DURAND SUCCESS! Sarah Matthews, our President, Roberta Harman, Linda Miocinovich, DNA Board Members, Graham Crawford, past DNA Board Member and Sylvia Edwards, friend of the Durand Neighbourhood.

Metrolinx Draft BCA on Hamilton Rapid Transit Now Online

LRT found to be best option, but still no decision

Nicholas Kevlahan

The long-awaited Metrolinx Business Case Analysis (BCA) for Hamilton’s east-west rapid transit corridor was released and discussed at Metrolinx’s February 19 board meeting. As expected, the BCA shows that LRT has by far the greatest overall economic benefit ($850 million compared to $313 million for full BRT), but is also the costliest (while retaining a net benefit 1.1). The report also strongly supports the two-way conversion of Main Street and King Street, and says these conversions are essential for BRT or LRT to achieve its full benefits. The BCA also considers a phased approach (LRT from McMaster to Ottawa St, and then BRT) which has the highest cost and benefits intermediate between the full BRT and full LRT options.

Unfortunately, no decision was actually made about the preferred mode. Even though LRT is clearly the best option in terms of overall benefit, and Metrolinx is encouraging the City to continue planning for LRT, we are still going to keep studying this thing to death and avoid making an actual decision.
Winter in the Durand
How to Run Hamilton Transit?

Do not look to the city of Ottawa for guidance

Dr Barry Wellar,
MCIP Professor Emeritus, University of Ottawa, Principal, Wellar Consulting Inc.
wellarb@uottawa.ca wellarconsulting.com

The original Ottawa Transportation Commission included public transit within its purview, and it functioned between 1948 and the early 1970s. The next 35 years witnessed the arrival of regional government, the amalgamation of 13 area municipalities, and a considerable amount of tinkering around with the administrative aspects of public transit.

During the latest round of tinkering, the transit commission which prevailed in the 1990s was replaced by a transit committee. As a result the City of Ottawa now has both a transportation committee (9 members) and a transit committee (8 members), with seven councillors sitting on both committees.

In regard to how well the current arrangement is working, Ottawa residents have reason to be confused. And concerned. Three examples serve to make this point.

First, a consulting firm hired by the city proposed in mid-2008 that an independent transit commission be instituted. Cost cutting, increased efficiency, and attracting people with transit expertise to manage the system were among the reasons cited to support the proposal, which was rejected by councillors.

However and hence the confusion among citizens, the criticisms which councillors raised about the commission proposal are very similar to the criticisms made by the public about the transit committee and council for their mishandling of the public transit file.

Second, beginning in late 2008 Ottawa experienced a 51-day bus strike. It is widely held by citizens that the bus strike was provoked and perpetuated by political posturing on the part of mayor and councillors. Had an independent, apolitical public transit commission been in place, the nastiness and macho nonsense on the parts of union leaders and politicians might not have arisen, and a settlement could have been reached much sooner.

Third, the creation of separate transit and transportation committees has led to many public comments along the lines that the left hand not does not know what the right hand is doing when it comes to making informed decisions involving all modes of transportation used to move people and goods, support land use development, etc. Would an independent public transit commission clarify the situation, or would it further muddify matters? On the evidence, Ottawa is not the place to look for an informed discussion of that topic.

Overall, it appears fair to say that the Ottawa experience in directing its transit function has not impressed citizens in general. And, for citizens with expertise in the transit and transportation fields, as well as those actively engaged in public interest activities, it again appears fair to say that they are not likely to nominate Ottawa for a best practices award in transit administration.

That said, as a result of its experiences over the past 60 years, Ottawa could be a useful laboratory for those debating transit agency models because it has tinkered with various arrangements.

Further, since the strengths and weaknesses of transit agency models (e.g., an independent body appointed by council to run the transit system; a mix of elected and appointed officials serving at the pleasure of council: a transit committee of councillors as a separate committee of council; and, transit as part of a transportation committee of council) are relative, Ottawa appears to offer an instructive situation for comparative analysis.

However, my examination of Ottawas transit agency evolution suggests that change was driven more by personalities than by informed debate, and that Hamiltonians should not look to the City of Ottawa for guidance on issues involving the structural, functional, or administrative aspects of Hamiltons transit system.

Closing note: One lesson learned by attentive Ottawa residents is to ask questions, questions, and more questions about transit-related pronouncements or musings by the mayor and councillors, as well as by vested interests. I believe that challenges by residents are what are keeping transit in Ottawa from becoming a total mish-mash, and I encourage Hamilton residents and their community associations to become fully engaged during discussions about the whys and hows of their transit agency. Remember: you are the ones paying the bills.

Dr Barry Wellar is the Policy & Research Advisor for the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario. Please visit www.urbanneighbourhoods.ca to view several documents prepared by Dr Wellar.

Crime Update

An overview of policing issues in the Durand

Janice Brown

Saying Goodbye to Chris and Hello to Frank

The DNA would like to wish our former crime manager Sergeant Chris Zafirides every success as he moves into a very exciting career opportunity. Up until December we were expecting to work with Chris for at
least another year. However he was asked to submit his resume and apply for a teaching position at the Police College in Aylmer. He was the successful candidate. We wish him well and know that he will inspire many young recruits. Chris will be an excellent role model and teacher. We will miss his dedication to our neighbourhood but look forward to his return in whatever capacity. He is an outstanding officer and we have thoroughly enjoyed working with him. Good Luck Chris and Thank You!

Our new Crime Manager is Acting Sargeant Frank Miscione. Frank has been with the Hamilton Police Service for 10 years and has worked in the following areas: Central Uniform Patrol 3 years, School Liaison Officer 4 years, Guns and Gangs 3 years, and most recently he was with Guns and Gangs unit within the intelligence division.

Frank grew up in Hamilton and in 2000 he played with the Tiger Cats as a fullback. Acting Sargeant Miscione tells us that “he is pleased to be working as a crime manager and looks forward to working with the community in 2010.” The DNA community wishes Acting Sergeant Frank Miscione all the best in his new position.

**Serious Property Damage to Vehicles**

For those Duranders who do not have email: please be advised that the neighbourhood is experiencing serious crime to vehicles. At the DNA Board Meeting in February, our crime manager Acting Sgt Frank Miscione informed us the DRILLER is back. This is a man who lives in the neighbourhood and is a former Mac student. He carries a drill and is drilling holes in autos in our neighbourhood. He usually walks but has been known to rent a vehicle. We know that that there have been two incidents on Hess Street South thus far. This is serious damage. If you have experienced this crime personally or know of neighbours who have: PLEASE REPORT a crime in progress by phoning 911, or to report a crime contact Hamilton Police Department 905 546 4925 and follow the prompts. Please be vigilant and spread the word to your friends and neighbours in the neighbourhood. And the most important action that you can do with this crime as well as any other is to report.

**Southtown Crime Statistics (Durand, Stinson Corktown)**

By Acting Sergeant Miscione

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Crime</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break and enter</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>+19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolen vehicle</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from vehicle</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**13 things your burglar won’t tell you**

*Some tips to keep you and your home safe*

Contributed by Roberta Harman

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.

2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

5. If it snows while you’re out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.

6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don’t let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it’s set. That makes it too easy.

7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It’s not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

8. It’s raining, you’re fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don’t take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I’ll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don’t take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won’t look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here’s a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids’ rooms.

12. You’re right: I won’t have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it’s not bolted down, I’ll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you’re reluctant to leave your TV on while you’re out of town, you can buy a $35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at www.faketv.com)

8 more things a burglar won’t tell you:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.

2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

3. I’ll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he’ll stop what he’s doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn’t hear it again, he’ll just go back to what he was doing. It’s human nature.

4. I’m not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?

5. I love looking in your windows. I’m looking for signs that you’re home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I’d like. I’ll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It’s easier than you think to look up your address.

7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it’s an invitation.

8. If you don’t answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs www.crimedoctor.com and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book Burglars on the Job

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What’s wrong and why?

Property standards in Hamilton

Matt Jelly

This city, downtown Hamilton particularly, has a legacy of insufficient Property Standards enforcement.

In the last issue of the Durander, part of the Property Standards By-Law was published. The language is clear— “No owner or occupant of property shall use, occupy, or allow, permit or acquiesce in the use or occupation of the property unless such property conforms to the standards prescribed in this By-law. No person, being the owner or occupant of a property, shall fail to maintain the property in conformity with the standards required in this by-law.”

This leaves so many in the Downtown community confused. When we walk the streets and see properties clearly in violation of this by-law, with broken windows, unsecured entrances, and damaged structures, we wonder why this enforcement hasn’t happened. In some cases, some buildings have been in violation of these by-laws for years, without any intervention on the City’s behalf. There’s a feeling that complaints aren’t taken seriously, and that the City hasn’t done enough to proactively enforce the by-law to prevent situations where a building is left to rot so long that it buckles under its own weight and has to come down. As someone who cares a great deal about saving and restoring the remaining heritage buildings in the downtown core, this lack of enforcement is frustrating to no end.

I was born in 1982, the third generation of my family to live in Downtown Hamilton. In the two decades before I was born, Hamilton as people had come to know it began to physically disappear. Brick by brick, building by building, pieces of our history disappeared, which I’m unfortunately only familiar with through photos and stories from the people who were there. In the decade before I was born, Hamilton lost the Capital Theatre. The Birk’s Building, hundreds of businesses and homes on York St., and they were putting the finishing touches on the Brutalist Superblock that replaced whole streets of buildings, all expropriated and demolished under the banner of “Urban Renewal.”

Governing a city properly requires creativity, patience and an attention to detail. Unfortunately, we tend to elect councils that concern themselves more with building megaprojects that make the papers and get councillors re-elected. Property Standards enforcement is by no means a sexy issue and it’s easy to let it sit on the back burner. But the day-to-day details are what make a City function. We can’t take our eye off the ball in this regard, or get too distracted by the next silver bullet project, which promises to ‘fix’ the city overnight. We’ve seen that approach fail too many times to fall for it again.

This council and many types of council before it have let certain developers ignore their responsibilities to the buildings and properties they own. There seems to be a double standard; residents are expected to adhere to these by-laws, and for the most part they do. Speculators with vague promises to redevelop have not faced the same scrutiny. In some cases, there is a de-
liberate attempt to degrade buildings to the point that they have to be torn down. It seems like the favoured method of acquiring land in Downtown Hamilton. In the meantime, the people who live and work in this community have to put up with it. Or do we?

I’ve had enough. We have by-laws for a reason— and they need to be applied equally. When they’re not enforced, great old buildings that still have potential are torn down and another generation of Hamiltonians will grow up never knowing the City we buried in our landfills.

By-Law enforcement is complaint based— it’s mostly up to citizens to spot infractions and report them. In an attempt to break the cycle of wilful neglect and emergency demolition, I formed a group called By-Law Crawl. On Saturday February 6th, I engaged 75 citizens to tour the downtown with the property standards by-law in hand, to document and report violations of this by-law. The original intent of this event was meant to focus mostly on vacant or derelict properties in the downtown, prioritized in terms of public safety, heritage significance and impact to local communities, in hopes of doing our part to ensure the retention of downtown Hamilton’s building stock, and to identify severe cases where a property owner is not living up to their responsibilities, and in some cases is endangering the public through lack of maintenance, or degrading the building and the community around it by leaving it vacant and under-maintained.

So far, our group has forwarded complaints on 34 buildings, mostly in the downtown core, a large majority of them vacant. At the time of writing this, I am still waiting for updates from By-Law staff as to which of these complaints have been responded to, and which of these property owners have been issued orders to comply. Beyond that, I’ll be meeting with By-Law staff to see how policies can be redeveloped to ensure better enforcement takes place in the future.

By the time you read this we will have had our second By-Law Crawl Saturday March 6th, which started in front of the Royal Connaught building. This event was also a “Spring Cleaning” event, where participants collected litter along the way, as well as reporting any instances of trash, debris, or illegal dumping.

I encourage you to visit our website at www.bylawcrawl.ca for any updates in regards to the crawl, the results we generate, and the steps the City takes to mitigate our concerns. I would also invite you to take part in the event, every first Saturday of the month.

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**Property Standards By-law**

**Is Your Property Up To Standards?**

**City of Hamilton**

The current Property Standards By-law (03-117) sets minimum standards to ensure that property owners maintain their properties. These standards are put in place to protect the health and safety of occupants as well as the general public. Property Standards address the physical building and the land around the property. Property owners of vacant buildings/lands are also required to maintain their properties.

What is the law regarding Property Standards?

All property owners must maintain and repair the interior and exterior of their property in accordance with the standards of the By-law.

Who is responsible for maintaining Property Standards?

The property owner is responsible for ensuring that violations are corrected. In some cases, occupants of a property may also be responsible for the correction of the violation. The rental agreement may address who is responsible to make repairs.

What are some of the interior and exterior issues covered under Property Standards?

**Interior:**
- Doors and Windows
- Interior stairs
- Floors and Walls
- Plumbing
- Electrical

**Exterior:**
- Exterior Walls and Roofs
- Eaves troughs and downspouts
- Balconies, porches, and exterior stairs
- Fences, barriers, and retaining walls
- Garages/sheds

How do I register a Property Standards complaint?

Anyone can make a complaint about a possible Property Standards violation by calling 905.546.2782 (select option 2) or by sending an email to mle@hamilton.ca. Please be prepared to provide as many details as possible including the municipal address and description of the concern(s). If you are an occupant then you need to inform the property owner/landlord in writing first (if possible), listing the violation(s) and allowing a reasonable time frame for the violation(s) to be corrected. Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) can be contacted and may investigate
if there is no action taken in a timely manner. As part of their investigation, staff will request a copy of the dated letter or documentation informing the property owner of the violations.

For more information, contact:
Municipal Law Enforcement Section
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 905-546-2782 (select option #2)
After Business Hours: 905-546-2489
Email: mle@hamilton.ca
Website: www.hamilton.ca/mle

Waxy’s Delicatessen
A small family run business tucked away on the SW corner of James and Duke

Claudia Sheldrick
A quaint no frills deli that can be easily missed by the casual passerby. However once you step foot in like I did, there’s no turning back. The smoked meat on rye, pickle on the side has you coming back for more, not to mention the lively conversation with owner Steve and brother Harvey.

I recently had the opportunity to interview owner Steve Waxman.

C.S. How would you describe Waxy’s?
S.W. Waxy’s is a small family run business that offers the the best smoked meat sandwich in the city at a reasonable price.

C.S. How long have you been at 2 Duke St.?
S.W. Just over 1 year.

C.S. What do you like about the location? What would you like to see change?
S.W. Our location is great! We are just off James St. S close to the Go Station and St. Joseph’s Hospital. We have met many local residents and have been able to develop a nice rapport with our clientele. As far as changes, I would like to see the area become more pedestrian friendly so that foot traffic can be increased. I would like to see more businesses open up on James South so that it becomes known as a dining district for every palette. pickle on the side has you coming back for more, not to mention the lively conversation with owner Steve and brother Harvey.

C.S. You recently expanded. Tell me about your new location and why you choose the downtown core.
S.W. Our new location is at 202 King St. E. On the corner of Walnut St. We have seating for 24 people and offer a breakfast menu as well. The downtown core has suffered over the last 15-20 years and we thought that we would try to do our part to get it rolling. Our landlords have been on board and have offered great incentives to open up downtown. We hope to be a catalyst to other businesses to participate in helping revitalize the downtown core. Lastly we felt that there was a need and demand for our style of restaurant. pickle on the side has you coming back for more, not to mention the lively conversation with owner Steve and brother Harvey.

C.S. What changes do you hope for or expect in your business in the next 10 years?
S.W. We are looking to expand further with the possibility of starting franchises.

Waxy’s Delicatessen now with 2 locations:
2 Duke St. West
202 King St. East
As someone who lives and works in the area, I have grown to love this part of Hamilton. Durand is a unique and historic neighbourhood and I am proud to support the DNA.

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Pets of the Durand

Name: **Zoom**
Age: 20 months
Breed: Siamese
Favourite Food: Birds
Most Loveable Trait: Very playful
Favourite Place to Hang Out: Cachmire lined bed
Favorite Phrase: You little arse!

Name: **Metis**
Age: 8
Breed: Boxer/Labrador mix.
Favourite Food: Swiss Chalet chicken.
Most Loveable Trait: The way he looks at you.
Favourite Place to Hang Out: On our bed...
Favorite Phrase: Beau Garçon.

Name: **Franklin Locke-Rose**
Age: 9 weeks.
Breed: Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.
Favourite Food: Chicken treats.
Most Loveable Trait: Franklin is gentle and goodnatured. He loves to snuggle and shower us with soft little kisses.
Favourite Place to Hang out: When he's not hot on our heels Franklin can be found in the living room curled up next to the club chair.
Favourite Activity: Playing in the snow; chasing snowflakes; napping.
Favourite Toy: Purple stuffed crab.

Name: **Sarah**
Age 9 years young.
Breed: Golden Retriever.
Favorite Food: Special Hypo-Allergenic Diet.
Most Lovable Trait: She knows she is cute and works the crowd.
Favourite Place to Hang Out: In our bed.
Favorite Phrase: “Wheres the squirrel?”
Introducing Heritage Mill Heritage Restoration Services

Alan Stacey, owner of Heritage Mill, a company specializing in historical architectural woodwork, immigrated to Canada from England five years ago.

Alan completed a college diploma at Salisbury College, UK in historic restoration in addition to a traditional five-year indentured apprenticeship in England. With some thirty years in the historic restoration profession, Alan has completed many projects in Dundas, the Durand neighbourhood as well as the historic designated districts in Toronto. He is currently working with the City of Hamilton on restoration projects at Dundurn Castle, a National Historical Site.

Services provided by the Heritage Mill Team of professionals include hand turning, fretwork and carving custom trim and molding, traditional custom windows, doors and porches, restoration of sash windows, as well as restoration of old finishes. He is a specialist in hardware, metal work and custom casting. The firm will consult, plan design, and draw. They can also provide historical research and documentation and assistance in acquiring Heritage Permits.

Contact: Heritage Mill, Historical Architectural Woodwork

RR #3 Governors Road
Dundas, On L9H 5E3
905 628-628-3052

Email: info@heritagemill.ca Website: www.heritagemill.ca.

Interesting Blogs and Websites

- www.streetsblog.org
- www.hamiltonian.net
- www.raisethehammer.org
- www.urbanneighbourhoods.org
- forumskscraper.com

Heritage Mill Educational Presents

Traditional Wood Window Workshop
When: Saturday, April 17th, 10:00am-3:00pm
Where: Dundas Museum and Archives, 139 Park Street West, Dundas On L9H 1X9
Cost: $30:00 includes Lunch
For more information call 905 628-3052
Welcome Craig Hansen & Richard Lubbers to Durand

Met in Ottawa 21 years ago this coming June 28, 2010. After university, we decided to move to beautiful Vancouver and Victoria for a few years, and at which time we worked in the restaurant industry until we pretty much had enough of tourism, so we decided to go and travel Europe.

After traveling and realizing that we were not getting any younger, we decided to settle down and open up our own retail/design studio in Oakville. Eleven hard but wonderful years have gone by and looking forward to many more in growing our business. We are well known to many for the past 9 years of the 11 as being the Farrow & Ball “Boys” in Oakville and the Golden Horseshoe area. It is a lot of hard work but we are very proud to be the original purveyor of such a beautiful product.

We decided to move to Duke Street in Hamilton late summer past, and took possession of the most wonderful house in the neighbourhood November 2009. What is so pleasing besides our home is the overwhelming sense of hospitality from our neighbours, and businesses in the area. We have made new friends immediately and look very forward to spring and years to come in meeting new people and building warm wonderful relationships.

All the best,
Craig and Richard “The Boys”
PS: Richard is a gardener extraordinaire... so when you are on Duke Street, make sure to see what is happening in the gardens.

Then ... and ... now

Grand living in the Durand at Herkimer at Bay

Built in 1915, the Herkimer Apartments were advertised as “Hamiltons New High Class Apartment Building, situated in the heart of the best residential district, on the street railway, equipped with the latest devices for comfort and conveniences.”

Today, Core Urban developers, David Sauvé and Steve Kulakowsky are retrofitting those very same upscale apartments into luxury condominiums. They, too, can boast of the very latest amenities that every home owner might want. Standard finishes include natural stone in the entry way, laundry room and kitchen, exquisite kitchen cabinetry including an island with granite counters, and carrera marble through the bathroom, fireplaces, 10 foot ceilings with cove mouldings, updated wiring and plumbing. Every unit is self sufficient and includes a gas furnace, air conditioning, water heater, and laundry room.

You will be pleasantly surprised with original details that the developers were able to retain. Those include hardwood floors; trim on the doors, baseboards and windows and in each of the master bedrooms the original safe for storing valuables.

Not only do Mr Kulakowsky and Mr Sauvé have a passion for this wonderful historic building, but the same can be said of their passion for Hamilton. Mr Kulakowsky, who grew up in the southwest of Hamilton, said “that the private sector needs to step up and create outstanding places for folks to move back into the heart of the city.” That they have done!

For more information: info@herkimeratbay.com, or call John Pocsai, or Mike Russo Jr. At Sutton Realty 905 575-7070
Please visit: www.herkimeratbay.com