Civic League Seeks to Encourage Voting

A new community organization aims to revitalize democracy and citizen engagement in Hamilton

David van Beveren

In commentary for this year’s twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, journalist Nick Thorpe, a BBC correspondent in Eastern Europe who has covered the nascent democracies of that region for the past two decades, observed that “those who are born into democracy don’t necessarily know how to use it.”

There is a ring of truth to this observation in Hamilton, particularly at the local level. Only 37% of eligible voters cast a ballot here in the 2006 municipal election; even fewer engage in other forms of political participation. The opportunity to be active in local decision-making is one that remains ungrasped for most Hamiltonians despite the remarkable extent to which city government shapes the form and function of urban life.

This autumn, a diverse group of citizens has joined in a volunteer effort to change this pattern ahead of the 2010 municipal election. The Hamilton Civic League, comprised of members from across the city, seeks to encourage all eligible voters to participate in the next election. Along with their sentiment that voting is important, the group recognizes that there are reasons why many people do not vote. To this end, the league is working to identify and address some of the causes of this disengagement.

By developing information resources and educational materials, the Hamilton Civic League will attempt to reach individuals whose detachment stems from unfamiliarity with the mechanics of the electoral process or the perception that municipal government isn’t relevant to their interests. Demographics with particularly low rates of engagement—renters, young people and newcomers, for example—will be especially targeted. Through community events, town hall meetings and discussion forums, the group will provide an inclusive and non-partisan setting in which ordinary citizens can engage in conversation about their concerns and aspirations for the city of Hamilton.

Like many behaviours, political participation is learned. The Civic League hopes that its work will help to rejuvenate a culture of active civic engagement in Hamilton and improve the fortunes of this city by leveraging the knowledge, insights and abilities of a broader segment of our population.

For more information, and for details on open membership and meetings, please visit www.hamiltoncivicleague.org.
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.

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

Bob Bratina

The Durand neighbourhood may be getting a new hotel. Plans are in the preliminary stages, but the proposal is for a 60 room boutique hotel, located in the James South-Charlton area. I’ll keep residents informed as the plans evolve through the various permit and planning stages.

The Pan Am Games are a big topic right now, and I hope Durand residents will support my view that a rejuvenation of the Downtown core should go hand in hand with stadium and other facility development. There are thousands of people living and working in and around the core, especially in the Durand who almost never venture along King Street between James and Catherine. A friend who lives in the Core Lofts has her businesses near Stoney Creek and in Westdale, and has little reason to go to the Core area. When she did, a few weeks ago, having to walk to an appointment she was somewhat unnerved by the uncomfortable feeling engendered by the lack of cleanliness and the persistence of panhandlers. Every big city has its problem people, but a walk around Boston’s Copley Square on a pleasant summer day presents a broad cross section of that city’s residents, some obviously well-dressed and affluent, others not so fortunate. But everyone has a sense of ownership of the public realm. That is not the case in our Downtown core. Furthermore we are losing a fortune in revenue opportunities from strong assessment and thriving enterprises, which can help us address those in need. The total amount of tax we collect on the North side of King between John and James is about $375,000 dollars. The taxes on the Staybridge Suites hotel on Market Street are $337,000 dollars. We assisted in the redevelopment of the old post office building which was taxed at about $40,000 dollars through our Downtown Loans program. A rough guess is that the lost revenue to the City in those two blocks because of their devaluation by our neglect is about $3 million dollars a year. It’s my intention to create a working group, tied to the Gore Master Plan process, and bring to Council a plan to bring our Downtown core back to respectability before the Pan Am Games visitors arrive in 2015.

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: A Year in Review**

"Winter came down to our home one night. Quietly pirouetting in on silvery-toed slippers of snow. And we, we were children once again."

*Bill Morgan, Jr.*

Sarah Matthews

The days are shorter. There is a chill in the air. The leaves are down. It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating at the Picnic in the Park and enjoying the new beautiful playground equipment with the kids. However, there is no time to hibernate! Its time to sharpen your skates! The Durand Park ice rink will open soon. There is a lot going on in the neighbourhood to entertain you and keep busy over the next few months.

For those of you who attended the DNA Annual General Meeting on October 19th, you know just how busy your Board has been over the last year. The Park Revitalization Committee worked tirelessly with the City to plan and select the wonderful playground equipment that adorns the Durand Park. Mayor Eisenberger, MP David Christopherson, MPP Andrea Horwath and Councillor Bob Bratina were present for the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the playground and we extend our gratitude to them for acknowledging the importance of having such a lovely park as the hub of our neighbourhood. I also want to thank our Picnic in the Park Co-Chairs, Adam Ellis and Linda Miocinovich, for their excellent work. Please read Linda’s article for details.

Vice-President Nicholas Kevlahan has had a particularly busy year with the Traffic and Transit Committee. The prospect of Rapid Transit, the issues of pedestrian crosswalks, bike lanes and safe road design, the Walk and Bike For Life initiative, and the Public Alleyway study certainly kept Nicholas occupied. Nicholas is also a Co-Chair of the Hess Village Community Liaison Committee which is comprised of 3 Hess Village bar owners, 3 property owners, Councillors Bob Bratina and Brian McHattie, a representative of the Hamilton Police Service, and representatives of the Durand, Central, Kirkendall and Strathcona neighbourhoods. This Committee was created to address the quality of life issues for the neighbourhoods abutting Hess Village as well as to ensure the continued success of Hess Village as a vital and vibrant entertainment district. See Nicholas’s article in this issue of the Durander for more details on this initiative.

Longtime Board Member and Treasurer Craig Hanson is taking a break from the DNA Board after many years. Craig always brought a sense of calm and order to our discussions and events. I really enjoyed working with Craig and I will miss him, as will the entire Board. Thank you, Craig, for all of your good work! Martin Maretzki has taken over the role of Treasurer, and replacing Martin as Secretary is Roberta Harman.

Reflecting on the contributions of the DNA Board over this past year causes me to query, Where would we be without these tremendous volunteers? Our own invaluable Janice Brown sums it up: “I am most impressed with the people who are on the board. They are dedicated, intelligent, passionate people who really love the Durand and they work really well together. They bring a lot of experience and talent, and it seems that they fall into what suits them best. Some can write killer letters to city hall, some can prepare PowerPoint presentations, and others know the ‘legalese.’ And there are those who are creative and bring new ideas! Find it amazing how a group of people can come together and bring their own little bits and make the wheel turn and good things happen.” (As quoted in the October 2009 edition of Fifty-Five Plus Magazine).

I was further enlightened by Ryan McGreal, editor of Raise the Hammer, who was our guest presenter at our Annual General Meeting. His topic was “Community Media in Hamilton: Moving From Concern to Information to Action.” Ryan described how the use of the internet can help volunteer-run organizations. His experience at Raise The Hammer has shown him that it is possible to create impressive projects not just by relying on experts but also by aggregating modest individual contributions by amateurs. Just as Wikipedia has managed to aggregate a bewildering number of small, disposable accomplishments into a major, enduring accomplishment, so too can volunteer organizations manage to aggregate individual contributions into a significant project. Volunteer organizations need to realize that if people are given the opportunity to participate in something that interests them, whether it takes 5 minutes or 5 hours of their time, any contribution is for the greater good of the organization as a whole. So, whether you are on the DNA Board or DNA member, any contribution betters our neighbourhood. If you would like to help the DNA in anyway, whether it is posting flyers while you walk the dog or posting your comments on our website or Facebook page, your contribution will be valued and appreciated.

With that in mind, I look forward to another productive and promising year in the neighbourhood. Have a great holiday season and well see you at the rink. Please visit our website at www.durandna.com for other news items that may be of interest to you.
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kitestring Ties Caring for the Community into their Business

*A young Durand business helps other entrepreneurs*

Megan Coppolino

The neighbourhoods favourite studio of young creatives and strategic marketers officially turned two years old this October 1st. Jenn Hudder and Chris Farias started kitestring creative marketing + design with a dream, some elbow grease, and a very long ball of twine. When they were thinking back to how much love went into kitestring to launch it as the business we know today on James Street South, they decided they wanted to give something similar to small business entrepreneurs getting started around them.

Launched on their birthday, the kitestring What Was I Thinking?! Contest asked new, small businesses in the area to enter their worst design and marketing muck-ups for a chance to be voted winner of the grand prize; up to $15,000 of creative services!

Determined by a public online vote, Linda Crawford, owner of Heavenly Bodies custom bras, won the contest grand prize and can hardly wait to explore her entrepreneurial passions through a re-branding experience. Her business specializes in custom mastectomy bras, and Linda herself continues her passion for supporting women in her volunteering with the Look Good Feel Better program for those battling cancer.

The team at kitestring has also very busy the past few months, along with host sponsors and local small businesses MediaFace and Training Innovation, planning the first TEDxHamilton event, which took place on Wednesday September 30th at McMaster Innovation Park. In the spirit of sharing ideas worth spreading, some of the areas brightest minds were brought together to speak for an intimate crowd of just over one hundred registered attendees and media representatives.

This holiday season, kitestring has decided to sponsor a family through the Childrens Aid Society of Hamilton, and encourages other groups and workplaces to get involved the same way.

“kitestring was so excited when they first heard the ages and interests of the children we will be sponsoring this holiday,” says Jenn Hudder, mompreneur and kitestring partner. “We really enjoy actively participating in our community and its wonderful to give smiles to children during the holidays.”

And there is more upcoming community involvement to be seen when the frost clears. This spring, kitestring’s involvement with the James South District will take the street in a whole new direction. President of the James South District and kitestring partner, Chris Farias, says that the warmer months of the New Year hold big plans for a big party to bring awareness to the area as a restaurant hot spot.

kitestring’s new website is as fun as they are in person, so check them out and follow their kiecast blog at kitestring.ca.

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The Grand Durand Garden Tour Returns for 2010

*The DNA is organizing a follow-up to our highly successful 2007 event*

Janice Brown, Chair

The 2010 Grand Durand Garden Tour promises to be as delightful and unforgettable as 2007 was. The Grand Durand Garden Tour will once again provide hundreds of residents and visitors to the Durand with an opportunity to visit 12 fabulous gardens, each opened to the public by owners and all in support of the DNA. All proceeds from the event will go to the ongoing care and beautification of the Durand Park.

I encourage you to mark June 12th 2010 on your calendars so that you will not be disappointed as tickets for the Tour in 2007 sold out quickly.

Updates on tickets prices, and ticket outlets will be announced in our Spring Newsletter and on our website www.durandna.com
St Mark’s site still waiting for a new identity

H-Magazine selects Durand’s St Mark’s church as one of its 2009 “Greatest”

Jeff Tessier

H-Magazine’s “Greatest site in need of some love and attention”: St. Marks Church (Bay & Hunter). Just down the street from the successful Core Lofts reno and the redesigned street scape between Main and York, and just around the corner from the stunning architecture on James South, this site properly used would be a perfect stepping stone for the revitalization of downtown to start moving into the residential sections of the Durand neighbourhood.

For the rest of 2009s Greatest of Hamilton and more fascinating Hamilton stories, go to www.newhmag.ca.

Property Standards By-Law

What the law says about property standards

Roberta Harman

BILL No. 117

Council of the City of Hamilton deems it desirable to establish standards for the occupancy and maintenance of certain buildings and properties, so that owners and occupiers provide minimum standards for persons who may live

at, attend or otherwise be affected by the condition of buildings and properties:

City of Hamilton is successor to the former area municipalities of: The Corporation of the Town of Ancaster, The Corporation of the Town of Dundas, The Corporation of the Town of Flamborough, The Corporation of the Township of Glanbrook, The Corporation of the City of Hamilton, and the

Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek, which may be referred to in this by-law collectively as the former area municipalities.

Fees and charges may be imposed under the authority of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, section 391, and the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992, c. 23, as amended, in particular section 15.5.

“City” means the municipality the “City of Hamilton.”, or the geographic boundaries of that municipality, as the context requires;

“committee” means The Property Standards Committee established under this By-law;

The Property Standards Committee for the City of Hamilton shall consist of five residents of, or property owners in the City to be appointed by Council, with a 3-year term. The members of the Committee shall hold office until their successors have been appointed. Any vacancy on the Committee shall be filled forthwith.

“officer” means a property standards officer who has been assigned or appointed by the City as a property standards officer to either administer or enforce this by-law and includes a building inspector for the City.

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. The owner of any property which does not conform to the standards in this by-law shall repair and maintain the property to conform to the standards or shall clear the property of all buildings, structures, debris or refuse and shall leave the property in a graded and levelled condition.

To find out what the general standards are, Click Here, or go to www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/7038FE88-BA3A-498E-A74E-B57A53F36855/0/03117PropertyStandards.pdf

If you feel a property is not up to the standards as outlined in Bill 117, it is up to you as the concerned resident/neighbour to register a complaint by calling 546 -2782 or e-mailing mle@hamilton.ca. How to Register a By-law Complaint

You can register a municipal by-law complaint by phone or e-mail.

Phone: Call 905-546-2782. Hours of operation are Monday Friday from 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. You will receive a recorded message that will prompt you to select one of four options, which list the nature of the complaint or area that you may be inquiring about:

- Press one (1) for: Environmental (e.g. long grass and weeds, garbage and debris, snow removal, graffiti etc.)
- Press two (2) for: Zoning and Property Standards (e.g. plumbing, vacant buildings etc.)
- Press three (3) for: Business, mobile, or taxi licences
- Press four (4) for: Lottery Licences
Once you have selected one of the above options you will be transferred to a Customer Service Representative who will assist you.

Email: You can contact our office by email at mle@hamilton.ca. Note, should receive a return e-mail acknowledging that your e-mail has been received.

Whether by phone or e-mail to assist with efficiently addressing your complaint, it is important that you provide the following information:

- Your contact information (name, phone number etc.). This information will be kept confidential and is important in the event additional information is required from you.
- Address of complaint
- Details about complaint (includes dates, times, etc.)
- Nature of the complaint

What are the timelines for complaint follow up? The City is unable to provide timelines for the enforcement of by-laws. Municipal Law Enforcement Officers can use various tools (e.g. issuing a Notice to Comply) to get compliance with by-laws. Some violations will require immediate action while others need more in depth investigations that take more time.

What are the penalties for not complying with a By-law? If a “Notice to Comply” or “Order to Comply” is issued and the property owner does not take the appropriate measures to correct the violation within the directed timelines the following may result:

- Charges under the Provincial Offences Act which provided for a maximum fine of $5000.00, in addition to other court proceedings necessary to obtain compliance.
- The City completing the work and the costs added to the property taxes for that property which the property owner will be responsible for payment.
- Fee For Services charge(s) applied.
- Tickets.

Hess Village Liaison Committee
The DNA is working to ensure both Hess Village and the local communities thrive

Nicholas Kevlahan
As a Durander living near Hess and Charlton, I have enjoyed having Hess Village just a short walk away. It is an attractive place to have a drink or a meal on a warm summer evening, or to take guests visiting Hamilton. My guests often say how they like the European atmosphere of the terraces and narrow streets.

However, many residents have become concerned by the rapid expansion in the number of licensed seats (from 2945 in 2002 to 4761 in 2009, an increase of 62%). Some of the establishments are now huge, with several having capacities of over 500. In addition, the police were increasingly worried that growth had exceeded their ability to ensure public order. It seemed that there was no plan in place to manage this growth. The DNA, along with other neighbourhood associations, lobbied the City to establish a stakeholders committee to develop a plan for the future, and to resolve existing issues.

In February 2009 Council instructed staff to prepare the Hess Village Review, and in May 2009 Council endorsed the principle of a Hess Village Community Liaison Committee. The Committee is made up of four residents representing each of the adjacent neighbourhoods (Durand, Central, Kirkendall and Strathcona), Councillors Bratina and McHattie, three Hess Village property owners and three bar owners and a representative of the Police. I am the Durand representative. The mandate of the committee is to suggest ways of “to improve Hess Village and the effect on the surrounding residential areas.” Particular issues of concern are:

- stakeholder concerns regarding the existing and potential impacts of Hess Village on properties, businesses, and overall well-being;
- strategies to control and minimize the occurrence of inappropriate behaviour, nuisance and noise, including the Public Nuisance By-law;
- implementation and effectiveness of strategies to address licensing issues;
- implementation and effectiveness of safety and policing enhancements, including additional closing time street lighting, fixed garbage containers, additional police officers and perimeter patrols, and closed circuit television cameras (CCTV);
- implementation and effectiveness of parking and taxi lane strategies.

The committee will meet bi-monthly until Fall 2010, after which time staff will report on its ef-
effectiveness, and decide whether it should continue. More details, and updates on the activities of the committee are available at [here](see www.hamilton.ca/CityDepartments/PlanningEcDev/Divisions/DowntownRenewal/HessVillageCLC.htm).

At the latest meeting on November 16 we heard from Bill Stewart of the Hamilton Police that enforcement was much more effective this past summer, and that the number of incidents was sharply down compared with previous years. In addition to effective policing, this improvement was also due to pro-active enforcement liquor licensing offences by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), who strictly enforced over-capacity premises, actually shutting down one bar for an extended period.

One issue that surprised committee members is that there is no regulation requiring toilet facilities proportional to outdoor occupancy. Since the outdoor capacity is 2282 (and there are no public toilets), this is a serious issue! It’s not surprising that neighbouring residents often complain about public urination, and that the police wrote several hundred enforcement tickets...

Residents are also concerned that there has been a shift from pubs and bars/restaurants to large-scale nightclubs in the past few years. The City is planning to create a new “nightclub” definition to better manage and regulate these establishments.

I hope that this committee will prove mutually beneficial to both the neighbourhoods and Hess Village. However, I was disappointed that none of the bar owners managed to turn up for the last meeting. The meetings are open to the public, and I encourage any interested residents to attend. If you have special issues of concern, I would be happy to hear from you at .

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**Hike for the community**

*Local hikers raise money for family gift baskets*

*Cynthia Emili*

Do you remember the excitement that you felt as a child, receiving a special gift during the holiday season? You probably celebrated by sharing a traditional meal with loved ones. Many families with children in the Hamilton area are not so lucky.
With a suggestion from one of our members, Dan Jevons, the Hamilton and Area Hiking Meetup Group decided to organize a charity hike on Nov. 8th. We raised $300 to provide “family holiday gift baskets” wrapped in clear cellophane revealing items inside which included simple wish list items such as personal care products, childrens toys and food gift cards from local grocers.

Starting at Gage Park, our beginner group of hikers from all over southern Ontario hiked through portions of the Bruce Trail, with a bit of an urban hike through the Durand neighbourhood, where we were curiously flagged down by Sarah of The Durander who captured our moment in a photograph. We continued on to the Chedoke Golf Course where we met up with our advanced hiking group, led by group organizer Michelle Madderson. We celebrated the end of the charity hike together with 38 participants in total. Donations will go to the Canadian Red Cross Emergency Care Assistance Program (Hamilton Branch).

The Hamilton and Area Hiking Meetup Group is a non-profit group for outdoor enthusiasts of various ages, interests and abilities, from the Hamilton and surrounding areas. Hiking is our primary passion all year round, but occasionally we do arrange other social and outdoor outings. We welcome new members, requests for new volunteer assistant hike organizers and any feedback on our guides and events. Please see www.hiking.meetup.com/208.

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**Durander Takes Pink Trillium!**

*A Durand garden receives the prestigious pink trillium award*

Janice Brown

Congratulations to Linda Miocinovich of 171 Robinson Street. Not only did she receive the White Trillium, but was also judged to be the best property in Ward 2. On October 19th at the Blooms in Hamilton Awards Night, Linda was presented with her Pink Trillium and a framed photograph of her front garden pictured here.

Congratulations also to White Trillium winners Katherine Livingstone and Jim Treleaven, Janet Ball and Pamela and Roger Marques as well for their beautiful front gardens.
Picnic in the Park 2009
The curtain rose on the 3rd annual Picnic in the Park on June 20, 2009
Linda Miocinovich

On behalf of myself and Adam we would like to thank our committee members and volunteers for their great efforts in making this year’s picnic in the park a memorable one. Without the dedication of all involved we would not have been able to bring together such a great event. Also thank you to our sponsors. Their generous contributions enabled us to add new events like Ken Fritz and his horse and buggy rides throughout the neighbourhood. There was a magic show, pet show, clowns and face painting for the children and adults alike. We were also able to procure some outstanding musicians, thanks to Keilagh and friends, Ridem Ryders and The Bar Chords. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Juno award winner Tomi Swick. What an honor to have him perform at our Picnic. Not only did he perform his old classics but then he gave us samplings of his newest releases.

In spite of the weather there was a fine turnout to the affair. One of the more memorable moments, and there were a few, was the ribbon cutting for our new playground equipment. Mayor Fred Eisenberger snipped the ribbon with the help of several of the community children. Also attending the ribbon cutting were Andrea Horwath MPP and NDP leader, David Christopherson MP, and councillor Bob Bratina.

A fine variety of food vendors, including Grab and Go Deli, Koi Sizzle, and Reardons made sure all appetites were satisfied.

If you missed this years event make sure you attend next years Picnic in the Park, it can only get better!! The curtain closed at 7pm!!
A Zoning By-Law Walk

Duranders help the City design new zoning by-laws

Sarah Matthews

A dozen Duranders met for a lovely stroll of the neighbourhood on Thursday, November 5th, with Al Fletcher and Shannon Hamilton, both planners with the City of Hamilton. Al Fletcher and Shannon Hamilton are part of the Zoning By-law Reform team which is responsible for the creation of the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law for the City of Hamilton. The Zoning By-law creates various land use zones that establish permitted uses (e.g. industrial, commercial/mixed use, residential, etc.) and regulations (e.g. building setbacks and heights, parking standards, etc.) for every property within the City. Direction is taken from the new Urban Official Plan for the City. The new Zoning By-Law is to be developed by 2011 to replace the old one that has been in place since 1956. This is no small feat.

Fletcher and Hamilton, as well as colleague Jocelyn Strutt, are meeting with as many neighbourhood associations as possible hoping to tap into the communities knowledge as they move forward on the development of new zones and mapping of these zones. The team of planners want to be shown what is working well or areas that need further focus/regulation to assist meeting the needs of the community. On our walk of the Durand, we discussed a variety of topics such as the creation of additional Heritage Conservation Districts in the neighbourhood, property standards and enforcement, the “Rogue Roofer,” density, future development and infill appropriateness, parking issues, and so on. It was a good opportunity to discuss issues of importance with our neighbours and to receive valuable insight and direction from the City planners.

For further information or to provide your comments to the team, please contact Al Fletcher (Alr.Fletcher@hamilton.ca), Shannon Hamilton (shan-non.hamilton@hamilton.ca) or Jocelyn Strutt (jocelyn.strutt@hamilton.ca).

The Supie Returns

We were again fortunate to have a Playlot Supervisor present in our park this summer

Sarah Matthews

We were very fortunate to have a wonderful Playlot Supervisor (Supie) at the Durand Park this past summer. James Bao entertained and played with the kids to their delight!

James is a high energy guy with very little spare time. He graduated from high school last June and is now at McMaster taking his Bachelor of Health Sciences. In addition to his Supie post, he works at the Rousseau House as an assistant waiter (he is too young to serve alcohol). Previous summer employment included teaching English in Nantong, China, just north of Shanghai, and participating in the Lead America leadership program in Washington, D.C. James grandparents and uncle are Durand residents and he was able to keep tabs on the park construction and installation of the new playground equipment before his job began in July.

“The playground equipment is absolutely amazing,” said James. “This is the best park in the City and I am so grateful for this experience,” he continued. James reported that the neighbourhood kids are very well behaved and he enjoyed meeting and talking with all of the parents: “This is a nice, tight-knit community.” He also appreciated the support that he received from the DNA, primarily Janice Brown, who came by the park to say hello nearly everyday. The police made a point of checking in with James quite frequently as well. Thanks James!
Remembering Radio Project

A former DNA President would like to learn about the role of early radio broadcasts in your life

Sonja Macdonald

The Remembering Radio Project is focused on reclaiming early memories of radio in the lives of everyday Canadians, particularly from those who listened in the 1930s. We are working to document the recollections of Canadian radio listeners, through telephone and in-person interviews, to discover more about daily radio routines in Canadian homes. We will ask about program preferences, types of radios, the location of the radio in the home, listening patterns and other memories of the impact of radio in the 1930s. This is a unique and long overdue project, as very little research about early Canadian radio audiences has been conducted. The project is lead by Dr. Anne MacLennan, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at York University, and it is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Over the next year, Sonja Macdonald, one of the research team, will be conducting interviews of Hamilton and area residents. If you, your friends or family members were born before 1932 and lived anywhere in Canada in the 1930s, she would be very interested in taking approximately 20 minutes to ask a few questions about memories of radio. If you would like to participate in the Remembering Radio Project, or know of someone else who would be suitable, please contact Sonja Macdonald at 905-741-9971 or via e-mail at sonjam11@yorku.ca.

If you would like additional information about the Project please visit our website at www.yorku.ca/amaclenn/radio.

SOS Snow Off Sidewalks

Property owners must clear snow off the sidewalks — it’s the law!

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton’s By-law #3-296

Property owners/occupants are responsible to clear and remove snow and ice off City sidewalks surrounding their properties. This includes the portion of the sidewalk at street corners also known as access ramps that allow pedestrians and people who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers and strollers easier entry to be able to cross the road.

Keeping sidewalks and walkways clear of snow and ice improves the quality of life for all, including those persons who provide a service and those who rely on mobility aids. Taking these measures will also help reduce injuries caused by slip and falls.

What is the Law Regarding Snow and Ice Removal?

Property owners/occupants are responsible for the complete removal and clearing of:

- snow and ice from all City sidewalks in front of their property within 24 hours of a snowfall
- snow and ice that builds up on roofs or eaves that overhang the public sidewalk

When clearing snow and ice, property owners/occupants must ensure that the snow and ice is NOT placed:

- Immediately beside or blocking access to a fire hydrant
- In such a manner that it would block drainage to any drain or sewer
- On a road or boulevard

It is illegal to place snow and ice on a road or boulevard. Doing this will interfere with traffic, may cause an accident, and may result in a $125.00 fine.

Penalties for Violations: Avoid unnecessary, costly penalties and court proceedings by clearing the sidewalk of snow and ice promptly after a snowfall. Failure to remove and clear snow and ice may result in one or all of the following:

- a Notice to Comply being issued (a Notice to Comply is a document provided to the property owner/occupant that gives direction on what actions need to be taken)
- charges under the Provincial Offences Act which provide for a maximum fine(s) of $5000.00, in addition to other court proceedings necessary to obtain compliance
- Fee for Inspection costs applied
- the City removing it at the property owners expense and the costs being added to the property taxes

Hill Street Community Gardens

An initiative to build a community garden in Kirkendall

Emma Cubitt

Goal: to serve the Southwest Hamilton community by organizing and providing a shared community garden and allotment space.

Why Start a Community Garden in the Kirkendall Neighbourhood?
1. Fill A Void: There are currently no community garden plots within 2.6km of the proposed site.

2. Build on Community Interest: Many local residents have expressed a desire to have a community garden in their neighbourhood. There is already a high level of food and environmental awareness in the neighbourhood.

3. Provide Access to Growing Lands: 50% of residents in the surrounding neighbourhood live in rental accommodation.

4. Improve Food Security: build on environmental and food issues awareness in the neighbourhood by growing fresh, organic food - especially for new immigrants, seniors, or people with lower incomes.

5. Create a Meeting Place: Community gardens can be a place for people of diverse backgrounds to meet and nurture friendships.

6. Network of Community Partners: Local churches, neighbourhood associations, etc. can combine resources for the community’s benefit.

7. Extend Generosity: Facilitate opportunities for people to grow food for local food banks, soup kitchens, or other neighbours in need.

8. Educate: Children and others unfamiliar with gardening can learn new skills and discover their connection to food and the earth.


10. Neighbourhood Beautification: The community garden will turn an under utilized piece of land into a thriving neighbourhood asset.

**Where Would it be Located?** In the Kirkendall North neighbourhood (population 2,740), between Dundurn & Locke, Hill & Melbourne Streets. The site is a 3,000 m² triangular piece of City-owned, vacant land south of Hill Street Park. The site is ideal for gardening, enjoying full sun with a variety of young trees and a decorative fence along its northern street side. Soil tests indicate that that land is suitable and safe for gardening; contamination is not an issue. A water source with underground shutoff is located directly across the street in Hill Street Park and could be utilized. Water storage containers would be located on site and topped up as necessary.

**Community Partnerships** Community gardens essentially combine a variety of local assets for the mutual benefit of local residents (whether gardeners or not). To make this project possible, collaboration must be established between four partners:

- City of Hamilton: Provide a lease for the land, water permission, municipal compost
- Neighbourhood Groups (Churches, Neighbourhood Associations, Clubs, Non-Profits). Provide practical organizational elements, including charitable status (for receiving donations), insurance, publicity, volunteer and participant recruitment, and community networking.
- Local Residents: Actively organize and participate in the garden, including a volunteer Coordination Team.
- Local Businesses: Provide gifts in-kind and other material support as appropriate.

**Financial Needs** The garden will be financially sustainable, given certain conditions: low-cost land lease from the City of Hamilton, nominal annual membership fees from gardeners, metered connection to municipal water from Hill Street Park, start up costs have been secured by Coordination Team, tools and other equipment supplied by member gardeners.

**Action Timeline**

1. September 2009 Establish the Coordination Team. Key members: Emma Cubitt, 248 Hunter Street West, emmacubitt@gmail.com, Katrina VandenBerg, 320 Locke Street South, katri-najvandenberg@gmail.com.

2. October 2009 Confirm suitability of site through soil quality analysis

3. November 2009 - Secure community partnerships


5. January-March 2010 Publicize garden opportunity in the neighbourhood

6. April-May 2010 Construct garden with launch event
Making Hamilton More Walkable

Public Health staff asks for public input... but participants are skeptical anything will actually be done

Nicholas Kevlahan

On November 5 I represented the Durand neighbourhood at the City’s “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 Walk and Bike for Life workshop I reported on in the last Durander) and expert opinion solicited by the City on how to encourage walking and make being a pedestrian safer, more convenient and more enjoyable. Not surprisingly, these reports all make the same recommendations: slow traffic, widen sidewalks, convert one-way to two-way streets, add pedestrian crossings, re-route heavy trucks from downtown streets and prioritize walking over other forms of transport.

Unfortunately, no real change has resulted from all these good intentions and expert advice, despite the fact that Hamilton suffers from an unacceptable number pedestrian injuries (including deaths) and a high obesity rate (especially among children).

The main suggestion of City staff was to form a pedestrian advisory committee. However, the participants were understandably sceptical, as the cycling committee has had little impact (its members resigned en-masse a few years ago to protest the fact that the relatively small budget for cycling improvements had not even been spent for several years!). Councillor McHattie concurred, pointing out that many councillors don’t bother even reading the minutes of the various advisory committees, let alone act on their advice.

In the end, the participants recommended forming a committee with “real power” to actually make decisions. The results of this consultation will be posted at www.doitwell.ca, but as I write this nothing has appeared.

Just to add to the feeling of futility amongst the participants, the City had scheduled the public meeting to review the Truck Route Master Plan at the same time as the Walkability meeting! This was especially ironic considering that the proposed Truck Route Master Plan makes recommendations diametrically opposed to those of the various walkability studies! The way to pedestrian hell really does appear to be paved with good intentions.
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**Pets of the Durand**

Name - Murphy. AKA- Teen Wolf  
Breed - German Hunt Terrier  
Age - 1.5 years old  
Favorite Food — Anything dropped on the floor  
Favourite place to hangout - by the window  
Favorite Toy - Rubber Squid  
Favorite Walk - Anywhere with squirrels. Also Locke Street.  
Murphy is a rescue from the SPCA. The SPCA is a great place to find a pet no matter how big or small. We love Murphy!

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Name: Zuma  
Age: 5 months old  
Breed: Fox Terrier/Shitzu Cross  
Favorite Food: Peanut Butter, shoes, curtains, towels  
Most Lovable Trait: loves to cuddle with the kids  
Favorite Place to Hang out: in front of the fridge, or long nature walks  
Favorite phrase: NO ZUMA!

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Name: Rosie Matthews-Valente  
Age: 5 months  
Breed: Golden Retriever  
Favourite Food: Everything, including shoes, clothing and furniture  
Most Lovable Trait: Her sweet, happy face  
Favourite Place to Hang Out: On couch with family  
Favourite Phrase: “Go walkies?”

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We’re always on the lookout for the next Pets of the Durand . . . we’d be delighted to feature your furry (or feathery) friend in the next Durander!
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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There was Singing and Dancing in the Rain…

If you were not there you missed the event of the year. James Street North was closed down between Cannon and Wilson Streets in celebration of the monthly success of Art Crawl. The evening aptly titled, SUPERCRAWL, was held on Friday, October 9, 2009. It not only included the usual local artisans and galleries but had several stages featuring such musicians as Jeremy Fisher and John Ellison. Local restaurants participated by bringing their food to the event, while Hamilton Food Share ran a food drive for charity.

In 1995, John Ellison received a citation of achievement from Broadcast Music for writing the third-most played song in the world “Some Kind of Wonderful.”

Next Art Crawl IS Friday, November 13.

A Touch of Spice Guest House

Congratulations to Jason of the Spice Emporium on Locke Street. He and his partner have recently opened a bed and breakfast in Vineland called Touch of Spice Guest house. It features wireless internet, a hot tub backing onto a private ravine, plenty of large common areas to enjoy, and a wood burning fireplace. Also in-house dinners for groups of 4–6 can be arranged with a welcome wine and cheese hosted by Jason and Gord. Sounds like a wonderful getaway! They invite you to visit their website www.touchofspiceguesthouse.com

Right Brain Meets Left Brain

At a mere 34 years old, Kelly Schnurr is putting a 17 year hobby to work. “It was the best advice I have received during these tough economic times” she recalls. Combining passion for photography with her business acumen, she has created a multifaceted photography business which includes but is not limited to: weddings, pet photography, head shots, corporate and school photography, TV stills, corporate stills, food photos and creative fashion shoots.

Most recently she developed “Photographic Proof”, which is a business providing digital documentation of household contents for insurance protection.

Kelly is the daughter of long-time DURAND resident Rebeckah Zimmerman, and can be reached at: kellyaschnurr@gmail.com, telephone: 1-416-839-7110.

Christmas at Whitehern Historic House and Garden

Enjoy the McQuesten Childhood Christmas with live music, refreshments and a chance to purchase reproduction, turn-of-the-century Christmas tree ornaments in “The Stable”. Sundays, December 13, 20 & 27, 1pm–4pm

Experience the holidays as the McQuestens would have in their youth, complete with their original toys and holiday decor including cedar garland and rich satin ribbons, and a twelve-foot high tree trimmed with tinsel and glass ornaments. Saturday, November 21, 2009 to Sunday, January 3, 2010. 1:00 pm 4:00 pm. Closed Mondays.
From MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
www.macnabpresbyterian.com

Nativity Pageant: Sunday December 13 at 10:30am.
Carols by Candlelight  A Festival of Christmas Music: Sunday December 20 at 7pm
A Candlelight Christmas Eve: Thursday December 24 at 7:00pm

Accent on Care
An exciting new company has opened, serving Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Ancaster, Dundas, Stoney Creek and surrounding areas.

Accent on Care is the brainchildren of Welsh nurse Barbara Dawson, and opened its doors to clients in July 2009. Endorsed by well-known orthopaedic surgeon Frank Smith, surgeon John Gately and others, Accent on Care (AOC) provides home care support primarily to postoperative patients. Qualified Personal Support Workers provide services to people with bathing, dressing, grooming, household chores, shopping etc.

They can also provide childcare, accompaniment to appointments or social activities. Priding itself on diversity of care, AOC offers services across the age range, from helping new Mums who require sleep, post-operative care for hip or knee surgery, to in home care for the elderly. AOC will fill in wherever and whenever a need arises.

Whilst AOC is a private company, clients can claim all or part of the cost from their insurance provider. For further information call 905-304-1910 or visit the website at www.accentoncare.com.
Living in the Durand Neighbourhood means living in one of Hamilton’s most attractive downtown neighbourhoods with its heritage homes and aging landscape.

Every year however, homes in this neighbourhood fall victim to property crimes including “break and enter” and vehicle thefts, disrupting the peacefulness of this beautiful district. For the people living in the area, these crimes pose a threat to their family’s safety and the security of their homes.

That’s why Source Cable Ltd, a local, family owned business located in Hamilton, has introduced Source Security Services – a residential and commercial property protection service designed to protect the things that matter most to families living in the Greater Hamilton Area.

With top-of-the-line Canadian made equipment and affordable rates, Source Security can offer residents a wide range of home security packages and customized video surveillance systems. We offer 24/7 monitored protection for burglary, fire, flood, carbon monoxide poisoning and medical emergency.

We provide free home assessments, a guaranteed monthly monitoring rate of only $19.99/month and free installation.

If you already have a home security system, it’s easy to switch your monitoring service to Source Security and you’ll get your first 6 months of service absolutely free!

But perhaps most importantly, with 35 years of business experience in the Hamilton area, Source Cable is a well-established and reputable company committed to providing the very best customer service. We’re a local name, with familiar faces and we’re right around the corner from our customers.

For more information please contact Source Security at 905-574-6464 or visit our website at www.sourcecable.ca/security.
Durander Calendar

December 5–24  Christmas in Gore Park
December 11  James N Art Crawl
December 10–13  Nutcracker Baller at Hamilton Place
December 13  Candle Light Carol Service, Central Presbyterian
December 19  Olympic torch relay at Dundurn Castle

December 20  Carols by Candlelight, McNab Presbyterian Church
December 25  Christmas Day
January 1  New Years Day
January 8  James N Art Crawl
February 24  Dundurn Park Ice Rink (weather permitting)

February 12  James N Art Crawl
February 14  Heritage Day at Dundurn Castle
February 15  Family Day
March 12  James N Art Crawl
March 17  St Patrick’s Day
March 21  Spring arrives!