

the durander

Newsletter of the Durand Neighbourhood Association

SUMMER 2018



The Durand Neighbourhood is the inner city district bounded by Main Street West, James Street South, the Escarpment and Queen Street South. It is home to approximately 12,000 Hamiltonians. The Durand Neighbourhood Association (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 the model downtown community that protects heritage while creating a diverse, sustainable and vibrant future. Please contact us at any time with questions, comments or concerns about the neighbourhood or if you are interested in volunteering, joining or renewing your membership.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

BY: CHRISTOPHER REDMOND

Like most summer seasons, the Durand has been busy with activity. We have already had a busy start to the season as we hosted a successful neighbourhood cleanup, participated in 100-in1 Day, and weeded and spruced up the park for the summer months. And that's not all, there are also a number of other events coming up that the DNA will be involved in.

In particular, Plan Local 2018, Councillor Farr's participatory budgeting exercise, also just wrapped up at the end of June. This year residents of Ward 2 were asked how they would like to see their neighbourhoods beautified through city projects. The DNA pushed hard for more heritage street signs in the neighbourhood, separated bike lanes, and more trash cans in the neighbourhood as our Plan Local beautification ideas. Thank you to everyone who participated!

The DNA also continues to be actively involved in development projects proposed for the neighbourhood, including Television City and the Medallion development. We have also stayed active on the Downtown Secondary Plan, fighting to ensure that the plan reflects the interests of our neighbourhood. It will be a long and difficult process staying on top of these and other newly emerging developments, but the DNA remains committed to protecting heritage and advocating for complete neighbourhoods.

On a more positive note, the DNA will be once again holding our annual Movie Night in Durand Park on Saturday, September 22nd. It is a perfect night for families as there will be entertainment, food, and community in abundance. This year's movie will be Coco! Stay tuned for more details.

Finally, our AGM is fast approaching. Because it is an election year, we will be holding an all candidates debate for all Ward 2 candidates in conjunction with our AGM on 2 October 2018 at Central Presbyterian Church at the corner of Charlton and Caroline. Please plan to attend so that we can all have a say in what the priorities of our next councillor should be.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in the neighbourhood. As always, please do not hesitate to email me at: president@durandna.com if you have any questions, concerns or ideas for making the neighbourhood a better place.

COUNCILOR'S REMARKS

BY: JASON FARR

Following yet another traffic accident on Queen Street South, I thought you may want the very latest update from Traffic Services. Traffic is aware of the concerns and issues at the intersection of Aberdeen and Queen as well as the concerns along Queen from Aberdeen to Main. There are a number of safety reviews and actions that are in progress to isolate the problems and determine and implement corrective actions.

Staff has completed a safety audit of the intersection of Queen and Aberdeen and has identified a collision pattern with northbound vehicles in collision with southbound left turn vehicles. To correct this problem, we have implemented a new southbound designated left turn lane to improve site lines for motorists in both directions.

We have also implemented a full time turn restriction for

northbound left turns onto Stanley Avenue. In addition, we have made a change in lane alignment and installed a temporary median island to physically block this turning movement from Queen to Stanley. The longer-term plan is to construct a permanent concrete median at this location in 2019 when works are being done to convert Queen from one way to two-way.

At the direction of Council, Traffic is currently designing a one-way to two-way conversion of Queen from Herkimer to Main. Queen is already two-way from Aberdeen to Herkimer. The design work will be completed in 2018 and construction of the conversion is expected to occur in the summer of 2019. With the two-way conversion the pedestrian crossing at Queen and Herkimer will be converted to a full traffic signal.

I have also once again asked Hamilton Police Services to offer a stronger presence and enforce the 40km speed limit.

CRIME MANAGER'S REPORT

CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE DURAND NEIGHBOURHOOD - May 18th, to June 18th, 2018

Robberies	2
Commercial Break and Enters	1
Residential Break and Enters	4
Mischief to Auto	2
Graffiti	1
Stolen Autos	2
Theft from Auto	2

Prepared by Sgt. Jen McFeggan #785
SouthTown Crime Manager



ROBBERIES:

- Uber driver assaulted by 3 suspects, later identified, arrested & charged
- Female robbed by a male, he fled, officers located him, arrested & charged

COMMERCIAL B&E:

- Suspect(s) entered building, no forced entry, rummage through laundry room lockers, nothing taken

RESIDENTIAL B&E:

- Possible key entry to building and unknown suspect(s) tagged items
- Window forced open, male found inside apartment and arrested
- Front door forced open, mirror stolen
- Entry gained via an unlocked window, bike & DVD player taken

MISCHIEF TO AUTO:

- Two vehicles parked on street, windows smashed, rummaged through, nothing stolen

GRAFFITI:

- Unknown suspect spray painted a lizard type tag on Church wall

STOLEN AUTO:

- The day after a pickup truck was stolen, Police saw it driving on St. Clair, vehicle was stopped, male arrested & charged

THEFT FROM AUTO:

- Window of vehicle smashed, tools stolen
- Vehicle left unlocked and computer taken

HERITAGE UPDATE

BY: JANICE BROWN



**1 ST. JAMES PLACE
ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL SAYS NO!
PHOTO: BARRY GRAY**

In January 2018, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the City of Hamilton for the second time saying it was upholding the City's denial of the demolition permit application for 1 St. James Place. Ontario's top court further declared that ample notice was given to the owner of this heritage home in denying the application to demolish. The decision, upholds a previous judgment by Justice David Broad from May 2017, which also declared the city took a "positive step" to notify the owner. The owners are now responsible to pay up to \$9,000.00 in court costs to the City. At this time, it is not apparent what next steps the owner may take.

A RECAP OF THE HISTORY OF 1 ST. JAMES PLACE

In 2014, 1 St. James Place received heritage designation by the City of Hamilton in recognition of its valued heritage and historical significance. This designation had come just in time to prevent demolition of the porch and attached garage which was proposed to create a "parking area" across from St. Joseph's hospital notwithstanding the location on a beautiful residential street of the Durand. This heritage designation nullified the owner's demolition permit application.

In July 2015, the owners appealed to the Conservation Review Board claiming the house was unsafe for habitation as it was full of mould. The Conservation Review Board upheld the City's decision to designate. In October 2015, the owner submitted a heritage permit application to the City to demolish the entire building. This application was later withdrawn. In December 2015, the owner put forward a second application to demolish the entire building and City Council denied the application. In January 2016, the owner went before Permit Review again requesting a demolition permit; Permit Review denied and recommended a Peer Review be done of the reasons for demolition. The owner then made an appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal not once but twice.

JAMES STREET BAPTIST

At this time the Durand Neighbourhood Association (DNA) is once again concerned about the future of the former James Street Baptist Church. Following bankruptcy by the owner Louis Santaguida (Stanton Renaissance), the Court appointed Spergel as the receiver to sell the property. There was an outstanding mortgage default of \$5 Million on the property as well as termination fees of purchase agreements.

Since then the property has been purchased by a Toronto group "Hue Developments & Investments". The DNA cannot find any information about this group. We have no idea if they have any experience in the development industry; more importantly we are not clear that they are interested in preserving and conserving the designated building and the artifacts stored both inside and outside.

The Heritage Permit has expired and the City has not inspected the Church since February 13, 2017. According to Alissa Denham Robinson Chair of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, "the property is in limbo". Councillor Farr advised the new owners that the priority should be an inspection to report on the condition of the structure and the artifacts being stored. Senior staffs from the Heritage department, Cultural Heritage department and Planning and Development departments have had some discussion with the developer but so far Hue Developments have not applied for a Heritage Permit, nor have they provided a formal submission or a revised site plan. If and when this happens, minor variances will likely be required as the new owners have indicated that there will be a change from the previous proposal.

The DNA has asked several questions of the City in regards to the responsibility for protection and conservation of the designated landmark property. The City holds a heritage bond on the property. NO money has been drawn on that security to date. The DNA has asked why this money was not used from February 13, 2017 to the time the new owner assumed possession for inspections. The DNA has asked what the responsibility of the Court Appointed Receiver was. The DNA has asked why the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee did not know that inspections had been discontinued in February 2017.

The protection afforded the James Street Baptist Church and its artifacts will require another Heritage Permit. We can only hope the former conditions to incorporate the artifacts into the new build will be respected by the new owners when they apply for their Heritage Permit. According to staff there have not been any discussions regarding how the artifacts will be incorporated into the design and how the new owner would follow the original Conservation Plan outlined by the architectural firm McCallum Sather.

DNA APPEALS

BY: PAUL NICHOLS

DNA APPEALS DOWNTOWN SECONDARY PLAN

At its May 9th meeting, Hamilton City Council approved the Downtown Secondary Plan (DSP) which aims to provide a framework for evaluation initiatives and development proposals for downtown Hamilton including parts of Durand. Initiated in 2011, the DSP is the result of seven (7) years of work and public consultation.

The DNA provided feedback to the City throughout the process and was generally supportive of the final version of the Downtown Secondary Plan. However, lingering concerns remain over the potential for developers to successfully appeal the DSP, based on the Plan's reliance on protecting views of the Escarpment as a justification for limiting building heights.

The DNA is concerned that successful appeals of the approved DSP will result in developments that are too tall or otherwise contextually inappropriate creeping into Durand. As a result, the DNA filed an appeal of the DSP to the newly formed Local Planning Appeals Tribunal. The appeal challenges the nature of the DSP's justification for limiting building heights. It is the DNA's hope that the City will review the DSP and find a more effective way to control the height of new development and thus, more effectively protect the built form in our community.

QUEEN STREET UPDATE

BY: TOM FLOOD

As there continues to be crashes along South Queen Street, City Council had staff complete a safety audit of the intersections of Queen & Aberdeen and Queen & Stanley, with the following improvements:

1. A new southbound designated left turn lane has been added using pavement markings for motorists turning onto Aberdeen from Queen.
2. Left turns for northbound motorists onto Stanley are not permitted at any time. A temporary median with bollards has been put in place alongside rubber curbing. This will be replaced with a permanent concrete median when the full two-way conversion of the street occurs in 2019.

Unfortunately, there are drivers making U-turns and left turns in the alley just south of the Herkimer intersection. This combined with the bollards in place at Queen & Herkimer continuing to be destroyed and replaced highlights that better solutions need to be put in place to prioritize the safety of our residents.

We do appreciate the efforts already made, however we must continue to push the city to live up to its mission statement of The Best Place to Raise A Child and Age Successfully.



H.A.A.A. GROUNDS

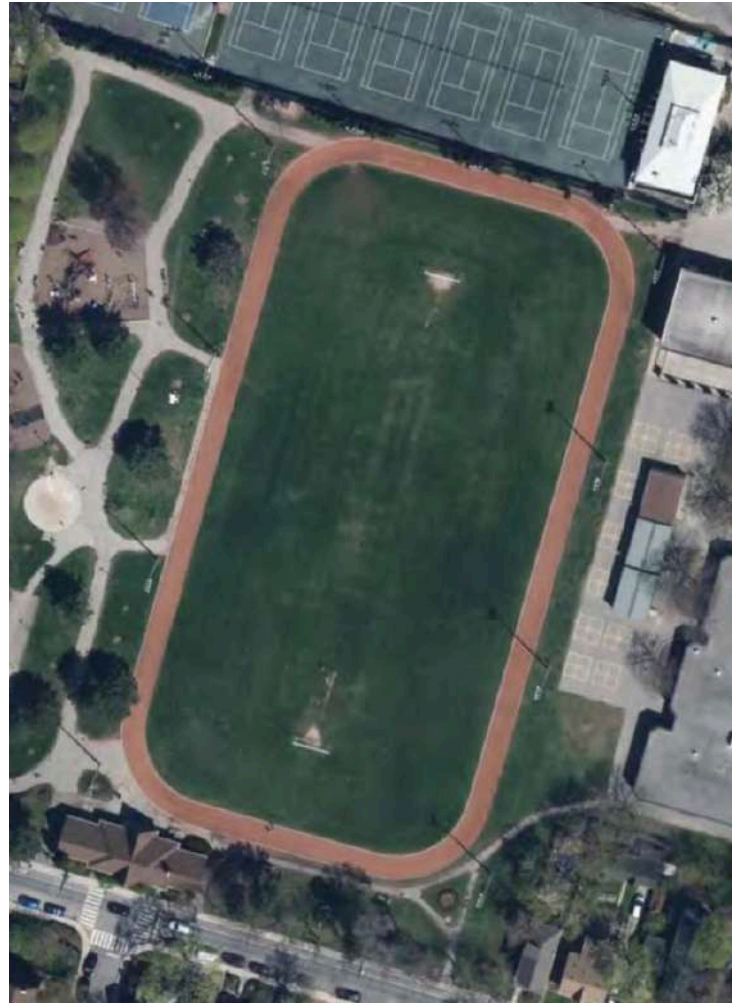
BY DENIS BAKER

The HAAA Grounds are classified as a community park serving the surrounding area. This includes both the Durand and the Kirkendall neighbourhoods. The first information session was held on June 14th and I, Denis Baker, was there for the DNA and another representative was there from the KNA. There were about 40 others also at the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Wes Kindree of Landscape Architectural Services (LAS) who had arranged to have display boards set up showing the history of the park (originally a cricket ground), the current layout and infrastructure, photos of different parts, and lists of areas that need improvement. Other boards detailed why this is the case (sometimes to meet current access laws) and who was involved. This was only the first meeting to hear ideas and suggestions from people about what needed to be done and priorities. Two more meetings will be held. The second in the summer to present a draft plan and some costing and a third in the fall with a final plan; this would be presented to city council. Dates are not yet set for these meetings but we will be informed and advise DNA members.

The clubhouse itself is designated as a heritage building and will remain, albeit with improvements. The oval crushed brick track remains and the centre grass field will be open for informal games at any time. League games (football or soccer) however can only be held with permission on scheduled days and times.

There were all sorts of questions, praise, suspicions and complaints raised of course. The biggest was over parking. When the footballers meet they usually block Charlton with their cars and spill over into all sorts of other parking areas so locals have a hard time finding space for their cars. Someone actually wanted to turn part of the park into a parking lot! However this idea did not find much support and the chair mentioned that there would be no reduction of the park area allowed. Access to washrooms was raised, something mentioned as important at the 8 to 80 presentations recently. To the surprise of most park users they are now open but in quite poor condition. They will be improved. I was impressed by the professional approach that is being made to create a plan which would ensure we keep a true community park, attractive, accessible and suitable for all ages.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BY: ANNE TENNIER

As part of my role as treasurer of the Durand Neighbourhood Association, I have the privilege of getting to know many of you through membership renewals and as new members. We all know that members and volunteers are vital to any organization – the more of each we have, the more events, issue tracking, updates and support we can provide to the community at large.

Your neighbourhood association has been very busy this past year on events alone – the 45th anniversary and Canada 150 celebration, Halloween Spooktacular, and our first ever Easter Egg Hunt, all held in beautiful Durand Park. Coming soon are our annual movie night in September and an all-candidates’ debate scheduled in October.

If you’ve enjoyed any or all of these events, I invite you to join the DNA. Membership fees are modest - \$10 for 1 year, \$15 for two years or \$20 for 3 years and cover all members of your household. Membership fees help cover part of the costs of any events that we run – the more members we have, the more we can offer you!

Joining the DNA couldn’t be easier! Just go to our website and join online at <http://www.durandna.com/store/> or, if you’d rather pay cash or via cheque, download and print our membership form at <http://www.durandna.com/wp-content/uploads/Durand-Membership-Application-2018.pdf> and mail it or drop it off at Durand Coffee, 142 Charlton Avenue West, Hamilton, ON L8P 2C7. You know you’ve thought about it...this time, go ahead and join the DNA!

SUPIE PROGRAM

DURAND PARK’S FREE SUPIE PROGRAM JULY 3RD TO AUGUST 17 2018

THE CITY OF HAMILTON’S RECREATION DIVISION OFFERS FREE MORNING AND AFTERNOON DROP-IN PROGRAMS IN CITY PARKS THROUGHOUT JULY AND AUGUST. THE SUPIE IS TRAINED IN ALL TYPES OF ACTIVITIES FROM SPORTS TO CRAFTS AND IS ON SITE TO PROGRAM FOR KIDS AGES 6 TO 12 INCLUDING THE SPLASH PAD. PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR CHILDREN. EXCITING ACTIVITIES ARE DIFFERENT EVERY DAY, SO VISIT OFTEN AND DON’T MISS OUT!



DURAND MOVIE NIGHT

Durand Park

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2018
6-9:30PM**

**RAINDATE:
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**

FREE POPCORN & COFFEE

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PIZZA, PULLED PORK SLIDERS & SMORES!



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