

the

DURANDER

Arts Day In the District

Durand to Host Special 'Hamilton Celebrates' Event

Many of you attended last May's fashion show and were thrilled with the event. So we think that you'll be excited to hear about the next venture being organized by the new James St. South business district - Arts Day in the District. This event is also part of the Hamilton Celebrates civic pride



month. The Durand Neighbourhood Association was pleased to have been involved in the planning. It is extremely important to have a healthy business area as well as parks and schools. They are all quality of life issues.

On Saturday, October 1, 2005 wander over to James Street South between 10 am and 5 p.m. for the first Arts Day in

the District. Come and visit the great stores, galleries, and restaurants on James Street South.

Events include a sidewalk sales, architectural tours, live music, arts activities for kids and Arts Alley. Join your neighbours in celebrating the neighbourhood.

See you there!

Fresh Look for the DNA

Fall '05 marks the launch of a new look for the Durand Neighbourhood Association newsletter.



The newsletter is now called 'the Durander' and features photographs, upcoming events and more stories. The logo has been modernized as well.

We hope you enjoy the improvements. We also welcome comments and questions as well as any submissions you'd like to send our way for consideration in future editions of the Durander

Email us at:

durand@hwcn.org

JOIN US AT THE DNA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 24

Mark your calendar. The Annual General Meeting of the Durand Neighbourhood Association is fast approaching.

This year's meeting is scheduled for October 24, 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) at the Football Hall of Fame. Cathy Gazzola, President of the DNA, will



provide a summary of this past year's achievements and areas of focus for the future.

Candidates for the Board will stand for election at the meeting. For more details about the meeting, check the DNA website at www.durandna.com

MESSAGE FROM CATHY GAZZOLA, PRESIDENT, DNA

"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

I have this quote by T.S. Eliot stuck on my fridge to nudge me forward when I'm pondering whether or not to write a letter, or to send an email or even to call expressing concern. It's far too easy to exaggerate the risks of getting involved in an issue and to downplay one's power. You may not always get the outcome you want, but being silent assures that nothing happens. The Durand Neighbourhood Association Executive has worked

hard this past year on a number of ventures, some going the way we'd like, others are just stuck. There are many exciting events taking place in October. Start the month (Oct. 1) by coming out to James St. S and enjoying the first Arts Day in the District and then end the month (Oct. 24) by attending the Annual General Meeting. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the other Board members for their support and guidance over the past year.

CATHY GAZZOLA

MESSAGE FROM BOB BRATINA, COUNCILLOR WARD 2

TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE DURAND NEIGHBOURHOOD,



I hope you enjoyed our wonderful summer. You will, by now, have noticed the long awaited construction activity, at several street corners, on James and John Streets. This construction is part of the James - John Two

Way Traffic Conversion. At the time of printing this newsletter, work was underway, but was running a few weeks behind schedule. The conversion of Charlton and St. Joseph's Drive will occur shortly thereafter.

Although most of us are looking forward to the changes, there will, no doubt, be adjustments and some fine tuning required, once the traffic plan is in place. The City's traffic engineers assure me that they are prepared to assess individual situations, as they happen, and make any necessary adjustments. For more information

visit: www.hamilton.ca/jamesjohn2way

The Thistle Club property has been an area of concern in the Durand

neighbourhood for some time now. None of us are pleased with the current situation - construction hoarding, broken nylon fencing and uneven, partially flooded terrain. The original townhouse design was deemed unprofitable, so the developer is reconsidering his plans for the site.

In the meantime I have asked our City staff to come up with a plan to



deal with situations like this one. I would prefer that empty development sites be graded, sodded and put to use as greenspaces until such time as the development moves forward. There are issues regarding preparation, maintenance and risk management that have to be resolved first, but the present condition of the site is unacceptable, even though it does comply with our current by-laws. It is an

eyesore in a beautifully maintained neighbourhood.

I would like to get your comments and suggestions for another type of park in your neighbourhood. Discussions have started about the creation of additional leash free parks for Hamilton dogs and their owners. Right now there are only two such parks - one in Dundas and the other on Dartnell Road on the East Mountain. I'd like to hear from Durand residents - both pros and con's on the matter. If you are in favour, what location would you suggest? Please e-mail your comments to my office.

Please call my office, anytime, if you have any questions or concerns. If I can't get back to you right away, Jennifer and Donna will be pleased to help you out.

Sincerely,

BOB BRATINA,
COUNCILLOR, WARD 2
905.546.2711
EMAIL bbratina@hamilton.ca.

ATALE OF TWO DEVELOPERS

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. OK, maybe a little overstated, but in our own neighbourhood and across the street from each other are two examples of what can happen to the best laid plans when sufficient capital is not in place. On the southeast corner of Park and Robinson, The Durand Park townhouses (Officer's Club) are well on their way to completion. Across the street, formerly the site of the Thistle Club, sits an empty and unattractive dirt field. A plan for luxury townhouses seemingly has turned to dust, literally.

One site will soon see the arrival of new residents, the other, well we're not sure. But one thing is certain.

If there are any efforts made to change the zoning to accommodate a highrise development, the Durand Neighbourhood Association will be among

the first to voice its concerns on behalf of our members. We'll keep you posted.



AN 'INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE' TAKES ON A NEW ROLE



Hamilton has its own 'industrial village' right in the heart of the City. The Imperial Cotton Centre for the Arts (ICCA) hosted "the big YARN" on August 13th.

Originally built in 1900 for the Imperial Cotton Company, the site is one of the most intact textile mill complexes in Canada. The Centre is the largest collection of independent practicing artists in the City of Hamilton in a common location.

Located at 270 Sherman Ave. North, the Centre is home to more than 30 professional artists who rent space at the Centre. So, while the Centre is not in the Durand neighbourhood, we wanted to let you know about an exciting development that will only serve to strengthen the urban health of Hamilton. Congratulation ICCA! We wish you continued success and growth!

FEDERATION OF URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS (FUN) ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE

At its Annual Meeting in May, the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN), an umbrella organization representing urban neighbourhoods from all across Ontario, elected a new Executive Committee for 2005/2006.

Newly elected President Bill Phillips said that the priorities for the coming year would be lobbying the Provincial Government for improvements in the areas affecting its member associations such as OMB and Ontario Election Act Reform. He also invited the member associations to send position papers to the FUN Executive Committee for vetting and

development as positions for FUN to pursue with the Provincial Government.

The FUN Executive Committee for 05/06 is composed of President, William (Bill) Phillips (Toronto); Vice-President, Ernie Dyck (Waterloo); Treasurer, Amy Kempster (Ottawa); Secretary, Susan Bentley (London); Membership Coordinator, Janice Brown (Hamilton); Past President, Gloria McGinn-McTeer (London); and Members-At-Large, John Caron (Guelph) and Madelyn Webb (Toronto). For more info, visit the FUN website at www.urbanneighbourhoods.ca

Around & About Durand



SUMMER SERENADE AT WHITEHERN

On July 12, nearly two hundred people gathered in the gardens of Whitehern Historic Home & Garden to listen to a free lunchtime concert of a string quartet from the National Academy Orchestra as part of the Boris Brodt Summer Music Festival. Ken Heaman, Curator of Whitehern was very pleased with the turnout. "The gardens are a perfect setting for concerts like these. This is the first time we've welcomed the Brodt Summer Music Festival, but I'm quite sure that it won't be the last. Next summer, in fact, we'll have weekly events in the garden."



MAKEOVER FOR CITY HALL

Despite calls by some to knock it down and start all over again, City Council announced plans to invest nearly \$30 million to restore, modernize and expand City Hall over the next decade. Designed by Hamilton resident and architect Stanley Roscoe in 1959, the City Hall is considered by many to be an architectural jewel and an excellent example of modernist architecture. Stanley Roscoe conducted a walking tour of the City Hall during this year's Architecture Week (May 1 - 8).



A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

For many months during the summer, residents along Herkimer (not to mention residents on nearby streets) had to contend with noise, dust and disruption. But that's the price you have to pay for new underground pipes, sidewalks and road. During construction, buses and cars were rerouted through various parts of Durand. The project was completed in August and the results look great.



LIBRARY CELEBRATES 2 ANNIVERSARIES

2005 is a notable year for the Hamilton Public Library. It's the 115th year of public library service in the city, and October 15th marks the 25th anniversary of the Central branch in its current downtown location. These anniversaries, part of "Hamilton Celebrates", kick off Ontario Public Library Week and National Library Week across Canada. Our friends at the library extend a warm welcome to all, and hope you can join them in the festivities.

FROM GREY TO GREEN AGAIN - A TREE PLANTING UPDATE



Over the past two years, one of the areas the DNA has concentrated on is promoting the planting of trees in the neighbourhood on both public and private property, (see our newsletter, Spring 2005). For a number of reasons, including simply old age, the Durand was getting a little grey! This spring the DNA encouraged householders to take advantage of the street tree planting program offered by the City and information on how to acquire trees for private property, at little or no expense, through

Green Venture and Environment Hamilton.

We're really pleased to report that residents have responded well to our appeal. In the last two years 32 street trees were planted. In addition, 6 trees have been planted around the perimeter of Durand Park. The DNA also paid for the planting of 10 additional trees in Durand Park, which will be planted next year.

Because of lack of tree maintenance dollars in the City budget, newly planted trees have not been watered. In view of what became the 'long hot summer' and the added stress this put on new plantings, we trust that those of you who did receive trees have been keeping them well watered

(although by August we did get some rain) The DNA wishes to thank the City Forestry's staff who have been most helpful with this project.

The over \$6000 raised in our very successful House Tour last September has been used to purchase 10 trees for Durand Park. They are expected to be planted this autumn.

The tree planting programs in the City are ongoing and are expected to continue. Those in the neighbourhood who want a tree on the public right-of-way, please contact the City's Forestry Section (905-546-2424) and, for additional information, go to the website www.hamilton.ca/treeplanting. There's still time to make the Durand even greener!

THEY'LL GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS



For Craig Hanson, it didn't feel like it was above and beyond the call of duty. But let's be fair, his duties as a Board member of the Durand Neighbourhood Association don't include watering saplings. But that's just what he did for the 6 new trees the City planted along the eastern edge of the Durand Park.

As you know, the summer started warm and got hotter - and dryer! Rather than lose these young trees to the summer heat, Craig simply filled up his own garbage cans, along with several he borrowed from neighbours, with his own water, loaded them onto the back of his pick-up truck and drove over to the park and watered the trees. Now that's dedication. Craig's extra effort helped to ensure that the new trees survive long enough to become mature trees, in turn providing more shade and oxygen and beauty to an already great neighbourhood park. Here's a whole bucket of thanks Craig!

"I think I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree."

Joyce Kilmer, 1914

WRAPAROUND - FOCUSING HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

Wraparound is a new initiative beginning in September that has been designed to assist families in need right here in Hamilton. The program is called Wraparound because it's a process that builds teams of individuals including friends, family members and professionals who work together to identify, provide and connect the family to the most helpful services and supports. The Wraparound process offers real hope to families with children with complex needs.

All professional and community support people involved develop one integrated plan that "wraps" services and supports around the family. As we say in Wraparound - one family, one focus, one plan! Hamilton is one of twenty Ontario communities that have developed a Wraparound initiative. The Wraparound initiatives with a Community Resource Team in Hamilton are in Stoney Creek, Ancaster, and, new this year, in NorthEast and Downtown Hamilton.

IF AT FIRST YOU SUCCEED, KEEP GOING! CITY LAUNCHES NEW INFORMATION WEBSITE

How many times have organizations promised a 'new and improved' website, only to either not have it ready, or end up under-delivering when it does appear? If you're like most of us, you gave up counting. Well, here's a website that delivers on its promise. Be sure to bookmark the City of Hamilton's brand new website: www.myhamilton.ca. Its mandate was to deliver a site that had "everything you need to live, work and play in Hamilton."



And guess what? It does. Sure, people will want to suggest changes, additions and refinements, but for a brand new website, we think it's a home run! From information on upcoming events to how to renew the license for your dog, this site is worth checking out. Congratulations to the team who put this one together. Life made easy, indeed.

DNA ANNOUNCES BOARD CANDIDATES FOR 2006-2007

The Durand Neighbourhood Association is pleased to announce the roster of candidates who have agreed to stand for office for the 2006 to 2007 term. They are: Cathy Gazzola, Janis Topp, Craig Hanson, John Hawker, Peter Rice, Sonja Macdonald, Graham Cubitt, Nicholas Kevlahan.

Voting for these candidates will take place at the Annual General Meeting on October 24, at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. If you would like to exercise your vote, please be sure to attend the meeting.



THANK YOU FROM FRIENDS OF CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Earlier in the year, the DNA received a wonderful thank you note from the Friends of Central Public School, praising our contribution:

"First of all I would like to express my gratitude again for the \$1,000 towards the naturalisation of the Central Public School park. All plants have taken. Everybody enjoys the new beds in front of the school. We were able to put two urns on the steps to the entrance door. Today another miracle - the city planted four trees along Park street. Wishing you a wonderful summer."

Now.... & ...THEN



The picture on the left was taken in September 2005; the one on the right taken shortly after the house was built in 1893. The home was originally built for P.M. Bankier, a prominent Hamilton lawyer. It was later occupied by the Moodie and Holton families, both associated with Hamilton's once-prosperous knitting industry. 105 Aberdeen is still a private home.



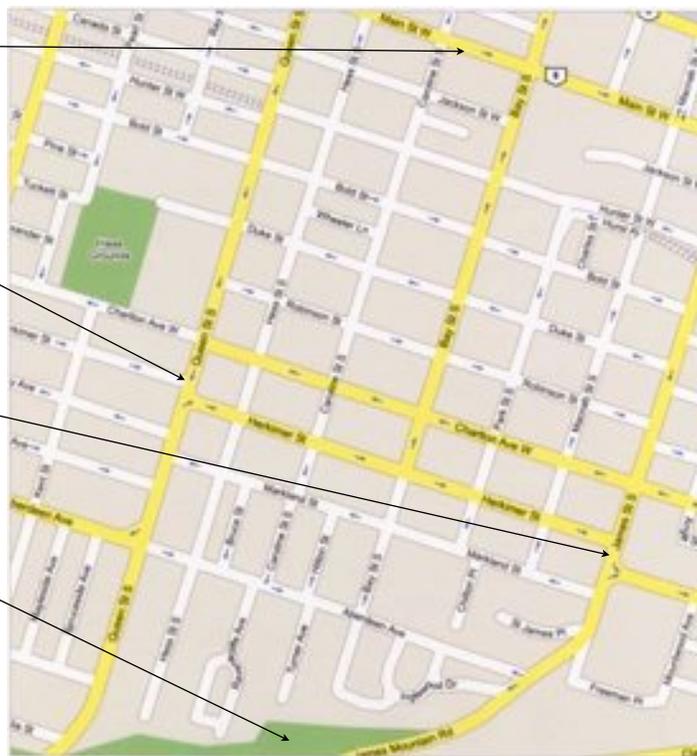
Source: *Footsteps in Time: Exploring Hamilton's Heritage Neighbourhoods, Volume 1* by Bill Manson

Main St. forms the northern border of Durand.

Queen St. forms the western border of Durand.

James St. South forms the eastern border of Durand.

The foot of the escarpment forms the southern border of Durand.



DURAND FACTS

The neighbourhood is named after Colonel James Durand, a soldier in the War of 1812 who became a wealthy local merchant, entrepreneur and influential politician.

At one time, Durand held title to lands in today's Corktown and Durand neighbourhoods.

Source: *Footsteps In Time: Exploring Hamilton's Heritage Neighbourhoods, Volume 1* by Bill Manson

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE - CHARLTON AVENUE



Benjamin Charlton was the first Hamilton mayor elected by citizen voters. Charlton taught at Central Public School, leaving teaching to found the Hamilton Vinegar Company, located on King William and Wellington. During his political career he served as councillor, alderman and mayor. Charlton married Sarah Barber in 1854. They had one child. Charlton died in 1901.

Source: *Hamilton Street Names - An Illustrated Guide*, Edited by Margaret Houghton

There's More Than One Way To Look At Things

JAMES AND JOHN STREETS REVERT TO TWO WAY TRAFFIC

It began as an urban experiment circa 1956 - turning twenty kilometres of Hamilton's streets into one-way thoroughfares. It was an experiment that was to last almost 50 years. Now, after two generations of going one-way, the experiment is reaching its end; at least as it relates to James and John streets, and parts of Charlton Ave. East as well as St. Joseph's Drive between James and John.

This year, City Council voted to turn both the northbound John Street, and the southbound James Street into two-way streets once again. The rationale? Well, for years urban planners, urban guru Jane Jacobs among them, have said that two-way streets are better for public transportation, cyclists, pedestrians, local residents and for local businesses.

One of the other key benefits is a reduction in the average speed of the cars compared to driving along one-way streets, especially ones that have four lanes available to them in rush hour. We've all seen cars on James and John streets that seem to use them as drag strips, often far exceeding the posted speed limits. So, slower cars mean safer roads, which mean increased safety for other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians trying to cross what often feel like inner city highways.

As for businesses, studies show that two-way traffic promotes a more robust retail economy along the street. Think of Ottawa Street or Locke Street as good examples. Rather than racing by in one of four lanes, motorists tend to see the shops more easily and, therefore are more able to stop and support the retailers.

So, while the critics will cite a negative impact on traffic flow, residents along and around the converted streets are likely to feel the benefits almost immediately.

Other streets in Durand have already gone back to two ways traffic. Parts of Hess and Caroline are good examples. In

addition, parts of James and John streets were converted back to two-way

According to Councillor Bob Bratina, "We'll be

driving both ways on James and John later this year. The conversion of Charlton and St. Joseph's Drive will occur shortly thereafter."

Lafarge Construction has already begun work at the southern end of James Street across from St. Joseph's Hospital.

According to the Spectator, "Once James, John and Charlton are ready, buses heading from downtown to the Mountain will be detoured from James to John via Charlton, so St. Joseph's Drive behind the hospital can be closed and rebuilt. St. Joseph's Drive will be closed to all but local traffic for about a month."

So, prepare yourself for a little bit of short-term pain (just like we did for the Herkimer reconstruction) in order to realize some long term gain.



If you were born in, or have moved to Hamilton after 1950, you've always known James and John Streets to be one-way. So, for many of us it will be a very different way of looking at things. But this is one difference we think is real progress.

In fact, the Durand Neighbourhood Association has been calling for these kinds of changes to the flow of traffic since the 1970's. Patience, it seems, is indeed a virtue.

A Limited View of Public Education?

A SPECIAL REPORT BY CATHY GAZZOLA

One of the many issues which led to the formation of the Durand Neighbourhood Association was that of the importance of the neighbourhood school Central Public. A good education is a quality of life issue; it is not an extra or an afterthought.

One cannot participate effectively in the community without it. It must be open to all, not just those with money and influence.

Unfortunately, recent decisions by the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board limit the quality of education available in many schools. Instead of focusing on creating strong neighbourhood schools, Trustees and senior staff keep moving towards a program model of delivery of services as well as promoting programs of choice. There is the assumption that all parents have choice. There is a very large blind spot with regard to the real financial situations in many homes; many families just survive. Many have neither the money to get their children transported to these schools nor the work environment that allows them to devote the 12-15 hours of parental involvement required by these programs. Central School has had a number of administrative staff in the last few years - there has not been an administrator there longer than 1.5 years since 1995 - yet the elementary program of choice has as its principal, a parent of a child in the program. This is not a situation of accountability or equity, yet it is allowed. This model is in conflict with Vision 2020 as such programs encourage more cars on the road.

There is an attempt by this Board, encouraged by the Director, to have more of these programs throughout the District. Right now there is a committee formed to look into the viability of a sports academy; its membership consists of many of the same people who were involved with bringing the proposal to the Board. The Trustee on the committee has already stated that he is voting for it. This raises concerns about accountability, or at least the appearance of accountability.

The programs of choice offered by the HWDSB do not serve children who are at risk of not succeeding. Instead, they serve parents with particular ideologies.

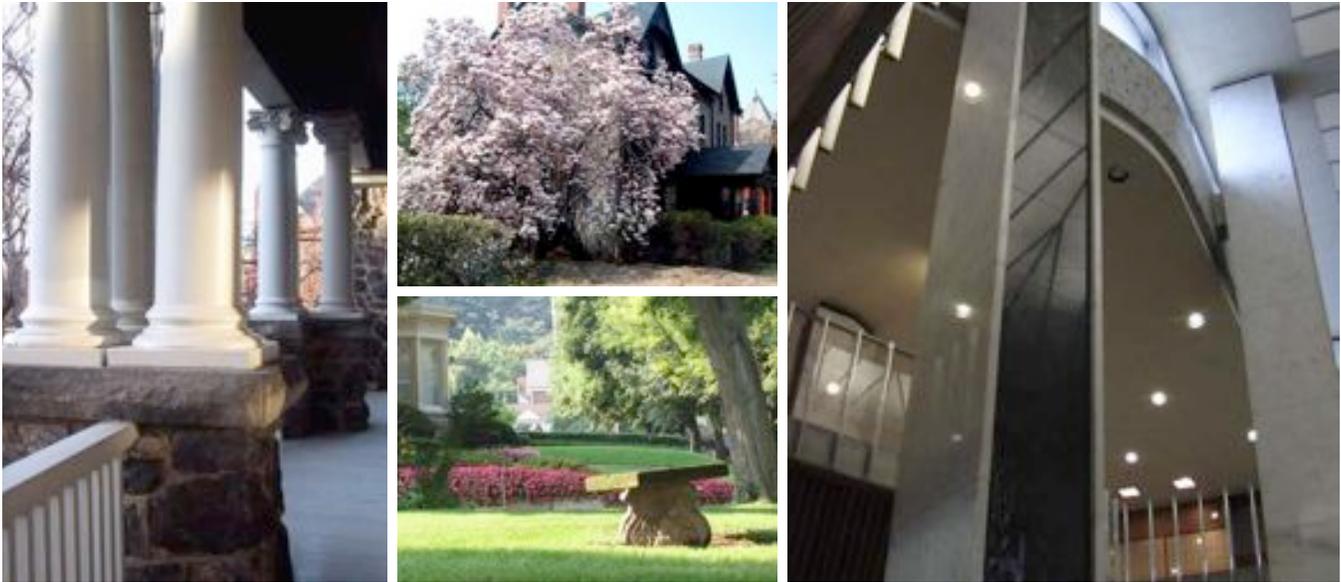
Last April, Executive Council removed the 10% staffing given to the 18 high needs or compensatory schools. None of the principals of such schools were consulted or even notified of this major change. Central Public is in this group and has lost 1.5 teachers. Durand Neighbourhood Association along with the Hamilton Wentworth Council of Home and School Associations, and many other individuals wrote letters condemning such action particularly in light of the Director's statement regarding a concern about poverty made at the Power Conference. The Director claimed miscommunication was the issue. So, instead of the loss of 25 teachers, there is now a loss of ONLY 8. Instead of teachers dedicated to a classroom, the HWDSB will now be using itinerant numeracy specialists. As well, the Trustees continue to allow the money given by the provincial government for Learning Opportunities to be used for other things.



Out of the ensuing uproar regarding the situation in compensatory schools, a committee has been formed to look at their specific needs with a report due back in January 2006. At the moment it consists of Superintendent Jim Wibberley (jim.wibberley@hwdsb.on.ca), 4 principals and Trustee Judith Bishop (Judith.bishop@hwdsb.on.ca). It is extremely important that anyone concerned about quality education contact the committee members, as well as the Executive Director, Dr. Christopher Spence (chris.spence@hwdsb.on.ca) and insist on sustainable funding not small programs that cater to very specific groups.

Durand Neighbourhood Association has already made a presentation to The Board of Trustees regarding this issue, but we will continue to monitor the situation to ensure equity.

Portfolio



Portfolio features images from around the Durand neighbourhood. If you have pictures of the Durand that you'd like us to feature, email your pictures to our editor, Graham Crawford at gscrawford6@cogeco.ca.

Get in touch. Get involved.

There are a number of ways you can get in touch with the DNA and/or get involved in the work of the DNA.

Join the DNA

If you'd like to become a member of the DNA, please complete the membership form contained in this newsletter and send it to us at:

17 Bruce Street
Hamilton, ON
L8P 3M5

Or, send an email to:

durand@hwcn.org

Visit the DNA Website

If you'd like to learn more about the Durand Neighbourhood Association, please visit our website at:

www.durandna.com

Volunteer for a DNA Project

If you'd like to volunteer to help the Durand Neighbourhood Association in its efforts to ensure a healthy, safe and vibrant neighbourhood, please contact us via email, mail or at the following phone #:

905.529.1869

The Durander is published by the Durand Neighbourhood Association.

It's In Your DNA.

If you're not a member of the Durand Neighbourhood Association, or if you haven't renewed your membership, now is your chance to do so. Simply fill in the following form and send it to us with your cheque. Your membership dues help to make the work of the DNA possible.

What is the DNA?

The Durand Neighbourhood Association Inc. is a politically independent community organization, chartered as a not-for-profit provincial corporation. It is financially self-supporting through annual membership dues and non-charitable contributions. It is committed to sound planning principles and to the preservation of a rich quality of life by serving and protecting the diverse social, economic and recreational needs of all residents.

Why Join?

- More members mean more input.
- Concerned citizens create a better community to live, work and play
- Members reinforce the neighbourhood voice with City Council

Name _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Postal: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please Check One:

- Renewal
 New Member
 Please email the Newsletter to the above email address

PLEASE CHECK AS APPROPRIATE	
ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	\$10
TWO YEAR MEMBERSHIP	\$15
THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	\$18
DONATION (NOT A REGISTERED CHARITY)	\$ _____

BOOK ORDER	
A NEIGHBOURHOOD RECLAIMED & DURAND CHRONICLE	\$20
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Please make cheque payable to Durand Neighbourhood Association Inc. c/o 17 Bruce Street, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 3M5 905 529-1869

THE DURANDER CALENDAR

FALL 2005

October	November	December
<p>Oct. 1 Arts Day in the District James St. South (Part of Hamilton Celebrates month)</p>	<p>Nov. 4,5 & 6 gritLIT - Hamilton Writers Festival Multiple Events - most at Downtown Cultural Centre - 28 Rebecca St. www.gritlit.ca</p>	<p>Dec. 1 - 31 Victorian Christmas at Dundurn Dundurn National Historic Site</p>
<p>Oct. 12 City Council Meeting 385 Jerseyville Ancaster</p>	<p>Nov. 5 & 12 Hamilton Cemetery Walking Tours 777 York Blvd. 11:00 a.m.</p>	 <p>Entrance Hall at Dundurn</p>
<p>Oct. 15 Central Library Building's 25th Anniversary (Also part of National Library Week)</p>	<p>Nov. 6 Concert of Remembrance Sir John A. Macdonald School 2:00 p.m.</p>	
<p>Oct. 24 DNA Annual General Meeting Hamilton Football Hall of Fame 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Nov. 9 City Council Meeting 4280 Binbrook Glanbrook</p>	
<p>Oct. 26 City Council Meeting 71 Main St, West</p>	<p>November 13 Remembrance Day Parade Gore Park (Morning)</p>	
<p>Oct. 26 Trillium Awards Ceremony City Hall Council Chambers 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Nov. 23 City Council Meeting 71 Main St, West</p>	<p>Dec. 31 Happy New Year!</p>
<p>Oct. 27 Information Night on the Future of the Carnegie Gallery Carnegie Gallery 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>For up-to-date info, visit: </p>	<p>It's In Your DNA. Be sure to renew your membership; or become a member of the Durand Neighbourhood Association.</p>