

the durander

Newsletter of the Durand Neighbourhood Association

WINTER 2012



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 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 about the neighbourhood or if you are interested in volunteering, joining or renewing your membership.

Contact Information: Durand Neighbourhood Association
C/O 332 Bay Street South, Hamilton ON L8P 3JB
289-887-2366 • president@durandna.com

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Durand AGM - Highlights of the Evening!

Janice Brown

The DNA Annual General Meeting (AGM), was a very informative and delightful evening. A special thank you to the YWCA's Denise Doyle, Donna Corwyn and Maureen Scally from Councillor Farr's office, for coming to the rescue of the DNA. The Auditorium in the YWCA in my opinion is one of the best venues that we have ever used and I can assure you we will be back.

Past-President Sarah Matthews highlighted the activities of the past year paying particular attention to our 40th Anniversary celebrations, our Durand Park Clean ups, the launch of our new website, and connecting to social media with Facebook and Twitter.

Sarah reviewed events scheduled for the upcoming year including skating parties, the return of the Grand Durand Garden Tour June 15, 2013, public meetings for Durand Park Revitalization, St Marks, and Participatory Budgeting planning meetings with Councillor Farr. Lastly, she stated that the DNA continues to monitor development, property standards, Hess Village and the Casino.

Our crime manager Sgt Frank Miscione thanked the DNA for its ongoing positive relationship with his office and the HPS in helping to keep the community safe. He explained that his position is to act as a resource to allocate units and resources to the Durand Neighborhood as required. He heads up COAST, a crisis intervention program; he works along with Councillor Farr on the Hess Village Liaison Committee and sits on the City Hamilton Housing Security & Safety Task Force.

More on page 2

PRESIDENT - Janice Brown

VICE PRESIDENT - Anders Knudsen

TREASURER - Claudia Sheldrick

SECRETARY - Frances Murray

Dennis Baker, Dave Cherkewski, Alfred Cheng
Jon Dalton, Kelly Foyle, Sarah Matthews
Peter Topalovic

Durand AGM

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Traffic complaints are a priority. This past August/September over 950 provincial infractions were laid, mostly cell phones and seat belt infractions. Theft from autos continues to be a major issue. There was a large increase from August to September. To deal with this, 10 plain-clothes officers working nights have been assigned in Durand, Kirkendall, Strathcona and Central. He reminded us that with Christmas coming soon, Break and Enters will become an issue.

He reminded us to Report, Report, Report and if it is a crime in progress, no matter how minor, call 911.

Ward 2 Councillor Farr informed Duranders that the DNA and he meet monthly to work on neighbourhood issues and initiatives to make the Durand a better place for all and he is supportive of our efforts. He outlined how Durand's portion of Discretionary Funds from Area Rating would be allocated. These include the pedestrian activated light at Herkimer and Caroline, flashing yellow lights in the Central School zone, and funds dedicated for the Durand Park's brick and iron fence as part of park revitalization.

He encouraged Duranders to get involved with the Study Group and upcoming Environmental Assessment of Queen Street that he and Councillor McHattie are heading up. He advised that the Pedestrian Mobility Plan be to be released shortly and should help with traffic calming on Queen Street.

The Security and Safety Task Force have been successful in getting security cameras on each of the floors to help with ongoing issues at the City Hamilton Housing units in the Durand.

A new development on Park South (three townhouses) is pending and the Hunter Street bike lanes are coming.

Councillor Farr encouraged the DNA to support him and the YWCA, join him in a tour, and learn about their needs and ways in which both Council and the DNA can support this wonderful downtown facility. In closing, he asked Duranders to get their concerns to him with regard to the proposed Casino. A Q&A followed with Councillor Farr and Duranders.

Following the adjournment of the Business Meeting of the AGM, President Matthews turned the program over to Kelly Foyle.

Feature Presentation by Ryan McGreal on Two-Way Street Conversion, followed by panel discussion with Nicholas Kevlahan, Kelly Foyle and Jonathon Dalton.

You can view here: http://raisethehammer.org/static/presentations/walkable_streets.html

Thank you to all for attending and for making the past 40 years such a success.

New President's Comments

Janice Brown

I have served on the Durand Neighbourhood Association since 1995. I moved to the Durand in 1992 and fell in love with everything Durand. What better way to learn about whom we are and what has come before, but to join the Association and then come onto the Board. My passion remains strong and I look forward to my new challenge as President, a position I have never held. However, we are a team, I am not alone. Your new board members are skilled, passionate, informed, and mostly young. That great mix of experience and young engaged Duranders with fresh new ideas will ensure that the Durand neighbourhood and its residents continue to be served as they have been since we began in 1972. Big shoes to fill, but I am confident. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your concerns.

jedbrown2009@gmail.com

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD!

At our initial meeting of your new board members, I asked if they would be prepared to submit a brief introduction of themselves so we could share with you. Frances Murray has graciously submitted hers for this issue. I asked them to comment on the following:

- What inspired you to become a member
- How long have you lived in Durand?
- What do you love most about the neighbourhood?
- Interests/hobbies?

ENJOY!

I've lived in the Durand neighbourhood since only December 2010, and I feel as if I've finally arrived "home". The beautiful old houses and proximity to downtown and work are great. Previously I lived in Stoney Creek and spent way too many hours of my life commuting - now I can walk or ride my bike to many places and have some freedom from car-dependency. Urban life is definitely for me. I found out about the Durand Neighbourhood Association from Jason Farr's Ward 2 email updates. After talking with Janice Brown by telephone and attending a meeting, I knew this was a group I wanted to be a part of - it's a small, hard-working group with the goal of advocating for this neighbourhood and its residents as well as the overall interests of Hamilton's core. Hamilton is a great place to live, with so much potential to be even better. In addition, I think the Durand is the best neighbourhood in this city. I feel very lucky to live here and to have a position on the Durand Neighbourhood Association Board.

Frances has assumed the role of Secretary and will represent the DNA on the Superintendent's Advisory Committee (Hamilton Police Force), and will be helping me with the Durander. Thank you, Frances, for your willingness to help out!

Durand Neighbourhood News

Janice Brown

Sunrise Lodge granted another increase in capacity!

The new owners of Sunrise Lodge, a residential care facility located at 160/164 Park Street South applied for a zoning variance to increase their maximum capacity. A special exemption was granted in 2007 to increase from 15 to 20. The DNA attended the Committee of Adjustment meeting on November 15th to deny their application. I might add that this was originally scheduled for October 16th, but was tabled and rescheduled as the applicants failed to display their application for Minor Variances in a visible location. The DNA reported this infraction to the Committee of Adjustment. The applicants then had to start the process all over again. This resulted in a new hearing date of November 15th.

See below details of the application -

And in the matter of an application by the owners.....for relief from the provisions of the Zoning By-law No 6593, under Section 45 of the Planning Act R.S. O. 1990c.P.13 so as to permit the expansion of the existing Residential Care Facility at 160 Park Street South from a capacity of ten (10) residents to a maximum of fourteen (14) and to legalize the expansion of an existing legally established non-conforming four (4) unit multiple dwelling at 164 Park Street South to a six (6) unit multiple dwelling, notwithstanding that no parking shall be provided on-site instead of the minimum required eleven (11) parking spaces.

NOTE:

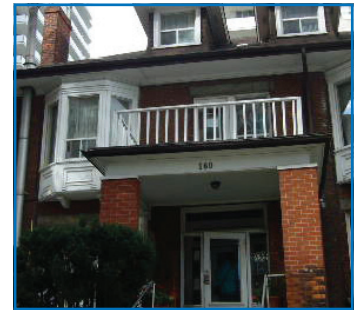
- *There are two buildings on this property. One building is known as 160 Park Street South which currently contains a Residential Care Facility for a maximum of ten (10) residents and the other building is known as 164 Park St S, which is recognized as containing a four (4) unit multiple*
- *The site-specific by-law pertaining to this property (amending by-law 07-330) states that a maximum dwelling capacity of twenty (20) residents is permitted on the property.*
- *Parking is required to be provided for a Residential Care Facility at a rate of 1 space for each 3 persons accommodated*
- *Parking is required to be provided for a multiple dwelling at a rate of 1 space for each dwelling unit*
- *The use of a multiple dwelling unit is not permitted within the "11, 4" Zone*

Following the DNA's presentation to deny which included all relevant by-laws pertaining to this application and subsequent questioning of the applicant of Sunrise Lodge, the Committee of Adjustment tabled the proceedings until November 29th so the committee could do a site visit to help make their decision.

See pictures taken showing that these properties are joined.



Figure 1- 164 Park South, no COA posting and glass door taped in place



160 Park Street South - No COA notice

During the discussion that ensued on November 29th, there was no mention of the site visit and what the COA's findings were. Did they tour both facilities? Did they do a bed count of 160-164 Park South? Their findings would have certainly been helpful to the hearing.

The entire procedure has been one of confusion. I do hope that the following summary of what transpired on November 29th will make sense to you. The COA is allowing the variance, but according to the applicant, he is only asking for an increase from 10 residents to 14 residents. These new beds would be located at 160 Park South. 164 Park South is attached to this building and is a four unit multiple dwelling currently operating as a six unit multiple dwelling. The owner is asking for a variance to legalize an expansion to a six multiple unit dwelling. **The applicant at no time disclosed how many were living in 164 Park South. The implication was that there would be no increases beyond 20 residents within the properties.** The DNA questions if we now have two facilities operating within one property, which could increase the number of residents significantly. That was never explained. How many beds are there in both of these buildings? The properties are one and are only licensed for maximum of 20. The DNA and a member of the COA questioned the applicant and asked "why are you here if you are not asking for an increase above the 20" The applicant assured the committee that he was not. (To make application to the COA cost the Applicant over \$1000.00... seems to be an unnecessary expense...perhaps a refund is in order if all is indeed above board.)

The COA then voted in favour of the applicant and **to allow all minor variances.**

I left the meeting confused and totally dissatisfied. At the time of this newsletter, the DNA has requested a meeting with Councillor Farr and Licensing Manager Al Fletcher to address these confusing irregularities. Please visit our website for the outcome of these deliberations. www.durandna.com

Durand Neighbourhood News

ST MARK'S

Janice Brown

Unfinished Business for the Durand

St Mark's remains unfinished business for the Durand Neighbourhood Association. Your Executive has extended an invitation to Neil Everson, Planning and Economic Development and Anna Bradford, Emergency and Community Services to attend our Board meeting on January 8th, 2013. At that time, we expect a "next steps report" that should involve the DNA and its residents with a public consultation. So far the building has been stabilized, the Sunday school demolished and the iron fence has been painted black. We have been promised that we are stakeholders and will be involved with a best use scenario for this property. The DNA is looking to have community space provided for the association and its residents as well as retaining the public grounds as green space.

WARD 2 INITIATIVES:

Janice Brown

Participatory Budget

The Durand Neighbourhood Association and its fellow Ward 2 neighbourhood associations have committed to Participatory Budget Planning, under the leadership of Councillor Farr. This process is to advise Councillor Farr how Area Rating Dollars should be spent in Ward 2. Durand and each of the neighbourhood associations have been asked to select and send a representative to the initial planning meetings to establish the process that Ward 2 will develop. The first meeting is November 30th and our representatives are Nicholas Kevlahan, former Vice President of the Durand along with Anders Knudsen, our current VP who will fill in should Nicholas not be available. We are well represented. And as we move forward, we will continue to update the membership. These are very exciting times and most certainly challenging. For more details, please see Councillor Farr's Report.

MOVING FORWARD ON TWO-WAY STREET CONVERSIONS

Kelly Foyle

On Monday November 26th, many Duranders attended a meeting at City Hall focused on establishing study groups to assist in the environmental assessment for the conversion of Canon and Queen St. to two-way. The meeting was highly eventful!

We heard from Ryan McGreal who outlined the benefits of complete two-way streets. Streets should be safe for all modes of transportation whether it is driving, cycling or walking. We all travel in a variety of different ways and making the streets friendlier for everyone is better for health, better for business and better for the environment.

We also heard from Peter Topalovic and Steve Molloy from the City on the process of environmental assessment and the Downtown Transportation Master Plan. Sharon MacKinnon outlined the public health benefits of complete streets including reduced accidents and injuries and healthier ways to travel.

Finally, Councillor Brian McHattie presented the need for citizen study groups rather than leaving the process up to consultants and staff, which tends to favour the status quo. Both Councillor McHattie and Councillor Farr seemed very hopeful that these study groups would actually allow for action as opposed to yet another study that leads to nowhere.

In the room, the feeling that action was needed was very palpable. There was considerable frustration at the slow process that has unfolded at converting our streets. Many streets were identified long ago for conversion and the city is far behind schedule with its already approved conversions.

Despite an untimely fire drill the meeting, Q&A continued outdoors where we heard from almost unanimous front of people supporting two-way conversions. There was one man who expressed concern for these conversions and the concern that traffic would be a problem. In the end, the consensus among citizens in attendance was clear – we need to take action to make our streets friendlier for everyone – not just cars!

The DNA continues our commitment to complete streets and many of us will be participating in the study groups.

Janice Brown



The DNA says NO to a downtown casino. Following the presentation by the Ontario and Lottery & Gaming Commission

on Friday November 9th, 2012, that position may indeed change to just say NO! to a Casino anywhere in Hamilton. We are working with our fellow Ward 2 Neighbourhood Associations to establish a unified position statement which lets us speak with one voice. What many of us took away from that meeting was that the OLG was in the driver's seat. Hamilton City Council in April voted to keep Flamborough as their preferred location. However, a "not withstanding clause" opened up the doors for consideration of other locations in Hamilton. Should Flamborough be accepted, it might only be short term. The OLG seeks to have a greater return and should Flamborough not meet their revenue expectations, the new licensee (selected by the OLG, and not City Council) could look elsewhere in the SW9 Zone that Council agreed to and that could mean Downtown!

Durand Neighbourhood Event

GRAND DURAND GARDEN TOUR JUNE 15TH, 2013

Janice Brown

Mark This Date on Your Calendar

Nine stunning and unique Durand gardens will be on our tour **June 15th, 2013**. Whitehern Historical House and Museum will host our Summer Cream Tea and the Suzuki School of Music will provide entertainment. Our sponsors are confirmed. Their support will offset our costs and help us add to our Park Revitalization Fund. Your committee members are hard at work to make this the best one yet. For those of you who missed GDGT 2007 and 2010, I encourage you to make sure you are on this tour next year. You will not be disappointed.

The committee has upped the ante. We have two very new and special features that will be added to the event. As chair, I can hardly contain my excitement. Stay tuned. In addition, visit our website for updates at www.durandna.com

Committee Members: Janice Brown, Chair, Linda Miocinovich, Carrie Hughes and Silvia Edwards. (Marketing – Graham Crawford)

Sponsors: Scarfone Hawkins, Plumblin Sales Ltd., Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd., Coldwell Banker Pinnacle (Joyce Hodgkiss), New Horizon Homes, Impressive Printing and Durand Supporter Herman Turkstra.

THE GRAND DURAND GARDEN TOUR 2013

Presented by The Durand Neighbourhood Association

Returns for a Third Time

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, June 15th, 2013

Gardens that will
embrace your senses.

Durand Neighbourhood News

CAN WE PROVIDE SAFE AND PLENTIFUL PROVISION FOR CYCLING, WALKING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

Dennis Baker

I have just returned from several weeks in the UK and am pleased to see so much attention being given to this issue. The city hall meeting on November 26 to discuss complete streets –the concept that vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists deserve equal space on our streets –was an important indicator of just how important it is to Hamilton. My compliments to counselors Jason Farr and Brian McHattie for their efforts to give a priority to complete streets. This includes the importance of converting most of the city back to two-way streets (despite apparent objections from wards that have no one-way streets!).

My report is simply to say that we are not alone. In the UK, there is also a major campaign to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. The Times newspaper of London has led a very public campaign starting a year ago. At that time, a truck while cycling to work in London struck one of their journalists, Mary Bowers. She remains in serious condition in hospital with only fleeting awareness and little ability to communicate. That terrible incident triggered a national safety campaign in her name calling on local and central government to overhaul measures to encourage and protect cyclists on Britain's streets. Eight priority objectives were compiled and progress was reported this November on the anniversary of the start of the campaign.

One objective is very topical for Hamilton. It is that **'20 mph (30kmph) should become the default speed limit in residential areas where there are no cycle lanes'**. This brought a relaxation of restrictions governing the implementation of 20 mph zones and more councils are now making use of these powers. This is a huge advance since the chance of death is dramatically reduced where these limits are introduced and enforced. It protects both cyclists and pedestrians. I have a report published in the Globe and Mail in September making this case. In London, England where they were able to introduce the lower limit in some areas several years ago it has brought a reduction in deaths and serious injuries of 46%.

The excuse I have been given locally for not lowering residential speed limits in Hamilton is the same as in the UK - the freedom of municipal areas to set limits is controlled by higher levels of government. It seems that they can be persuaded to change in the UK so why not here? Jurisdictions around the world have the message. I worked in Germany for years and their

cities seem to work well and still have 30 kmph speed limits in residential areas. I think of this whenever I walk downtown and see motorists speeding up Hunter Street past Central Public School. My daughter lives in Blainville, Quebec (just north of Montreal) where most residential areas have a 30 kmph limit. The police are vigilant and have proven capable of enforcing the law. It should not be beyond Hamilton's ability to do what they manage in Quebec.

HESS VILLAGE LIAISON COMMITTEE – ALFRED CHENG & PETER TOPALOVIC

Alfred and Peter will represent us at these quarterly meetings. As new information comes available, we will post on our website.

WARD 2 COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Associations that form the Ward 2 Community Council are Central, Stinson, Corktown, Beasley, North End Neighbours, and Durand. We get together every second month prior to meeting with Councillor Farr to set the Agenda to deal with issues that are common to all of us as well as those that are different. We are currently working together on a Casino Position, and Complete Streets. It is not necessary that we have consensus on all issues that are put on the table. Our neighbourhoods and our residents have both similarities and different perspectives. However, the conversation is always lively. *Jon Dalton and Dave Cherkewski are the Durand representatives for 2013. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8th and January 16th with Councillor Farr.*

OUR CRIME MANAGER SAYS GOODBYE!

Sgt Frank Miscione will be moving on and will no longer be our Crime Manager. On behalf of the Durand Neighbourhood Association and all Duranders, we will miss you. Frank has been a pleasure to work with and we were fortunate to have had him as long as we did. We have developed a great relationship with Frank. There has always been a two-way street. His efforts to make Durand a safer place for all of us is much appreciated. Durand has been very lucky to have had outstanding Crime Managers working on our behalf. We wish Frank all the best in his new position and look forward to welcoming our new Crime Manager Sgt. Geoff Burbidge.

40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND MOVIE NIGHT – SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2012

Janice Brown

The DNA extends a heartfelt thank you to all those Duranders and community neighbours who attended our 40th Anniversary Dinner and Movie Night September 22nd. It was a fabulous party. The weather cooperated; it must have been all those sun dances to ensure great weather. The energy in Durand Park was awesome.

As part of our revitalization plans for Durand Park, it was our intention to provide fun activities that brought families, seniors, pets, and the community to the park. It is obviously working and there will be more to come. The DNA and City will begin public consultation in 2013 for major improvements to our one and only park the Durand Park! Stay tuned and be a part of this process... it is for you!

To Sarah, Claudia, Anders, Alfred, Linda, Frances, Jon and Dennis (the DNA Board) thank you for a fabulous team effort to celebrate our 40th with our friends and community in Durand and surrounding neighbourhoods. We are a small group, but we are mighty...I look forward to the next 40!

To Tim and Mark (our movie crew), Susan, Graeme and the crew at Gorilla Cheese, and our live, local band, the Altobeelays: thank you for all that you do for community. This was the best ever park event and it was just a pleasure to work with you.

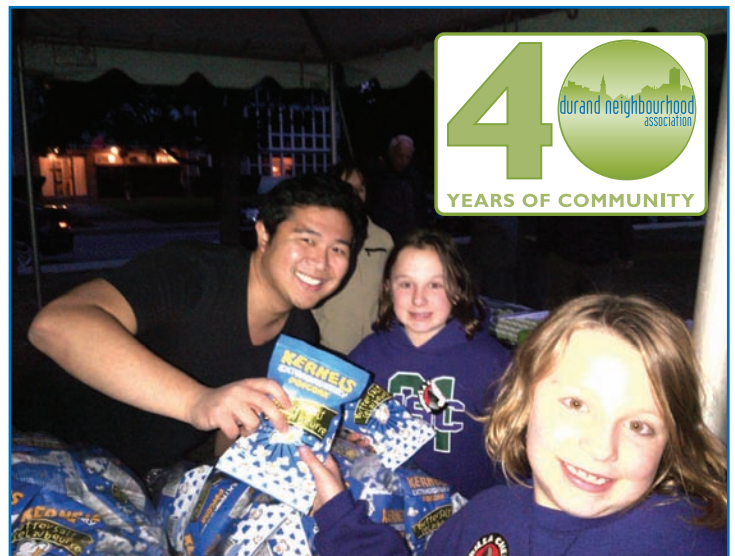
To Diane Dent and Herman Turkstra: thank you for coming and sharing your early years with this amazing neighbourhood as-

sociation. Without you we would not have been celebrating. You set the standard for those of us who have followed you. I hope we continue to make you proud of the Durand and what we do.

To Councillor Jason Farr and Ward 1 & 2 School Trustee, Judith Bishop: Thank you for making this a “must attend” event. Your support for the DNA and collaboration to continue to make the Durand neighbourhood the best place to live, work, play, and “to raise a child”



And finally, a special thank you to MP David Christoperson for his continued support and wonderful passionate and inspiring comments that were so fitting for this 40th Anniversary Celebration of Community Service. David presented me with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal that night. I was speechless and for those of you who know me that might have been a first in my life. I am honoured to have been recognized! THANK YOU, DAVID!



THE GRAND DURAND - HAMILTON'S MANSIONS

Graham Crawford

History Expands

"I knew Annabella Middleton."

I had noticed she had been watching one of the monitors quite intently. In fact, it seemed as if she had been standing there long enough to have watched it twice.

"I saw it the first time, but I wanted to be sure that it was her name on the screen," she told me.

She had been watching a multimedia presentation featuring several dozen photographs and some historical information about the house at 1 Turner Avenue, one of 16 houses in The Grand Durand - Hamilton's Mansions exhibition at Hamilton HIStory + HERitage. Oddly enough, it was my own house. I had added Annabella's name to the presentation based on information given to me by the previous owners of the house, Alexander (Sandy) McKay and his wife Jean. In fact, Sandy told me that it was Annabella Middleton, housekeeper at 1 Turner, who had shown him around the house when it was for sale back in 1964. The owner, Mr. Edwin Dalley, had gone to a long-term care facility just a month or so before and she was still living in the house until it sold.

"I went to the same church as Annabella. She was a lovely person. So kind. She was devoted to Mr. Dalley. She never married. I know she had two sisters," she added. I think she must have been in her 80's.

There have been a number of wonderful moments such as this one since the exhibition opened back in September. Three granddaughters of Joseph Pigott came in together to view the information on their grandparent's home at 358 Bay Street South. Another visitor was a member of the Gillard family, the owners of the 1877 stone house at 64 Aberdeen Avenue, whose family had sold the house in 1951 to the Hendries, who in turn sold it to the current owners. She added a piece of information that had been lost, telling me that the decorative painted ceilings in the hallway had been covered by dropped panels when she was a child. The current owners had been told the Hendries were responsible for adding the panels. Still another visitor spoke of a different Hendrie, Lilly Hendrie, who lived at the large Tudor-style house at 135 Aberdeen Avenue and how her chauffeur would drive her to the Tamahak Club for an event, but that Mrs. Hendrie had become so large she refused to get out the car so her meal was served to her as she sat in the back seat.

The Grand Durand has been, without question, the most popular exhibition I've ever done in the 5 years HIStory + HERitage has been open. The very generous and positive full-

page stories in the Hamilton Spectator, the Globe and Mail, and urbanicity certainly helped get the word out. There have been many people from Toronto, Oakville, and Mississauga who have made the trip in to Hamilton expressly to see the exhibition. So have many Hamiltonians. All ages. All backgrounds. All interested in what is surely one of the most beautiful heritage neighbourhoods in Canada. So popular that I'm already planning to create The Grand Durand 2 for late 2013. It will feature another 16 houses in the neighbourhood. Some homeowners have already offered to participate. There are still many from which to choose, such is the architectural richness of our neighbourhood.

By the time you read this, the book that features hundreds of photographs and lots of information about the 16 houses, as well as the history of the Durand neighbourhood written by local historian and fellow Durander by Bill Manson, will be available for purchase. And just in time for Christmas.

If I do say so myself, it's pretty impressive. I'm pleased to add that it was printed in Hamilton. In fact, every single part of it was created in downtown Hamilton, including the history of each home and of the families who have lived in them over the past 125+ years. What a remarkable history. What a remarkable neighbourhood.

I want to thank the Durand Neighbourhood Association for their financial contribution to help offset the costs of printing of the book. Their support has helped to ensure the price of the book remained affordable, thereby making the book more accessible to more Hamiltonians. After all, this is a story we want to be sure is shared.

The full-colour, 70-page Grand Durand - Hamilton's Mansions book is available for purchase for \$25.00 including tax, at Hamilton HIStory + HERitage at 165 James Street North. We're open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11-5. You can also email to reserve a copy at historyandheritage@sympatico.ca.

Graham Crawford is the owner and operator of Hamilton HIStory + HERitage which celebrates the lives of the men and women who have helped to shape the city of Hamilton.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS FOR THE DURAND PARK REVITALIZATION

Janice Brown

Steve Barnhart, Acting Manager, Landscape Architectural Services, Environment & Sustainable Infrastructure, Public Works, for the City of Hamilton will be reviewing the 2013 work for Durand Park with his staff team in December and will be assigning Durand at that time. They will coordinate a start-up discussion with Councillor Farr's office in January. Prior to organizing public involvement process background information will be collected which will take a few weeks. Staff will work directly with the neighbourhood association as the key stakeholder group and develop a public engagement strategy with the DNA. This will all be moving forward starting in January and continue into early spring. The DNA will keep you posted of all public consultations. Please support you neighbourhood and take an active role in creating the best little park in the city, the Durand. This is going to be a great year ahead for all of us.



CITY WIDE CONCERNS

Anders Knudsen

The Aerotropolis

The DNA are among the participants in Ontario Municipal Board hearings concerning the Aerotropolis or 'Airport Employment Growth District,' a massive urban expansion the city is seeking around the airport, covering a total of 7800 acres – larger than either Hamilton Harbour or the downtown City of Hamilton.

The parties in the current stage of the hearing are the city, supporting the expansion, and Environment Hamilton and Hamiltonians for Progressive Development opposing it. Approximately 30 participants are registered including a number of community organizations.

The city's position is that the AEGD is needed for future employment needs. The city claims that the industrial zoning that will attach to the lands will prevent residential housing from building there.

We are skeptical. We foresee that once the urban boundary is expanded, developers will find ways to build residential housing. Because residential land commands a much higher price than industrial, many homeowners and many land speculators around the airport are clamouring to get their land included within the expansion, out of the exact same belief as ours: that the city will not be able to keep residential development out (Many landowners within the AEGD are opposed to the plan).

Why is this a Durand issue? For many reasons:

1. Cost. The servicing costs of the AEGD run near to half a billion dollars. At a minimum, ten percent of this gets added to the existing tax levy, and likely will be much higher. We believe there is plenty of land already serviced downtown that could meet employment needs, yet provincial tax breaks create incentives for underutilizing land.
2. Sprawl and its corrosive effects on downtown.
3. We support the maintaining of agricultural lands as a source of local food.
4. We believe projections for airport growth are fantastical. In 20 years, the existing airport business park failed to attract a single tenant. Where the city once projected 9.5 million passengers a year out of the airport by 2031, it now projects 1.5 million. This is one more reason to doubt that residential development will be kept out. Once the servicing is in place and no commercial tenants show up, the city will be pressured to allow residential in to pay a small portion of the servicing costs.
5. The employment types the AEGD will attract are low value. Because of the transformation of YHM to a courier shipping hub, the anticipated uses will be transport and warehousing – sprawling development attracting low density, unskilled employment.
6. The environmental effects of the expansion on watersheds and the increasing threats of flood as drainage lands are paved.

FROM THE COUNCILLOR'S DESK:



The exciting times continue in Downtown Hamilton. Recently, Council supported our core in a number of ways. Council voted to solve a major parking problem in the King West BIA, we added millions more in development opportunities and expedited the process with our Downtown Multi-Residential Property Investment Program and expanded the Community Improvement Initiatives. And all of that occurred at just one Council meeting in Late November.*

I am very grateful to my colleagues who continue to support the heart of our city. Downtown and Harbour Front renewal are a big part of our City of Hamilton Strategic Plan. This plan has certainly not been ignored in the last two years of this four year term. I do believe there is plenty of evidence that the commitment is paying off.

Of course, much of what we have done and what we are about to do relies on public engagement. To that end, I am hopeful that Duranders will come out in large numbers when it is time to bring the bright ideas forward on how to spend one million dollars?

Throughout 2013, we will be working through a Participatory Budget process that will see ideas on capital projects brought to the table from every corner of Ward 2. Ultimately, right around this time next year, you will be hearing about the PBW2 vote. Projects ideas will have been short listed and a ward wide ballot will occur. By mid December 2013, we expect a lot of hoopla into the holidays once the winning project(s) is/ are announced.

PBW2 starts with a planning committee that will meet for the first three months and hash out the details on how the year long process will evolve. Duranders will have a representative on this planning committee and I know that representative will be of great assistance to us.

Once the planning committee lays out the ground rules and schedules the process, then we get the word out to the ward. We want ideas on how to spend **your** money from **you**.

A few months later we will short-list what we expect will be a long list of thoughts and dreams. Then we make the short list even shorter. Then we bring on the ward wide vote.

Now, before I get too far ahead of PBW2 I should note that it is our first kick at this and we need to make clear that tweaks and hic-cups will likely occur along the road. Nobody can deny that this is a massive undertaking. However, the intent is pure.



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Empowerment and engagement is the motivation. We think that we have one million reasons to help inspire folks from the Durand and throughout Ward 2.

Happy holidays to you and your family in beautiful Durand.

Jay

***see November 28th City of Hamilton Council agenda or watch the debate by logging onto hamilton.ca**

SGT FRANK MISCIONE'S CRIME UPDATE:

Hello everyone,

I first want to thank everyone for a great partnership this year. With your diligence in reporting and looking out for your neighbours our crime rates in the City for violent crime have dropped. We are still seeing property crimes increase at certain times of the year especially as we move into the Holiday season. Please be mindful that anything left in your vehicles is an invitation for someone to break in. It is important you take the proper steps to keep from becoming a victim of crime. If you are, then please report your crime to the police.

Over the next while, the central division will be conducting plain-clothes projects that look to strategically target the individuals responsible. The police do recognize the increase in property crimes and are taking various steps proactively and reactively

to address this issue. Lastly, I would like to say to everyone to enjoy your holiday season and if you are going to drink then plan ahead and have a designated driver or taxi. Please don't drink and drive. Take care and stay safe.

Frank Miscione

Sgt Frank Miscione #754
 Division 10 Crime Manager
 155 King William St
 Hamilton, On. L8R-1A7
[\(905\) 540-6074](tel:9055406074)
fmiscione@hamiltonpolice.on.ca



“ 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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**Please contact my office
for assistance with any matters
dealing with the Federal Government.**

22 Tisdale Street South | Tel: 905-526-0770
Hamilton ON L8N 2V9 | hamilton@davidchristopherson.ca
www.davidchristopherson.ca



332 Bay Street South
Hamilton, ON L8P 3J8

Telephone: (905) 570-0609
e-mail: president@durandna.com
www.durandna.com