



Councillor Brad Clark Annual Report



Hamilton

Family Fireworks Rules Change



Details can be found
bradclarkreport.ca

Getting Things Done in Ward 9

I am pleased to report our progress in addressing the state of repairs of our Ward 9 infrastructure, roads, bridges, sidewalks, parks and facilities.

We have made improvements to Cline Park, replaced 6km of sidewalk bays that were tripping hazards, widened Rymal Road, widened Regional Road #56, rebuilt the bridge over Felker's Creek, redesigned Paramount Road north of Mud Street, rebuilt the bridge on Green Mountain Road East between Tapleystown Road and Fifth Road East, completed the expansion of the Valley Park Library and Community Centre. Finally, the new Valley Skate Park will be opening late summer.

Construction Season is Here

This year's construction continues with our push to reinvest in the state of repair of our local infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, trails and facilities. I am grateful for our staff's assistance in ensuring that roads which are in a bad state of repair get the required attention. I thank you for your patience during these construction periods. It can be frustrating, but the work is essential.

Approved Capital Works for Ward 9

Mud Street West from Isaac Brock Road to Upper Centennial Parkway;
Highland Road West from Glen Hollow Drive to First Road West;
Highland Road West from Winterberry Drive to Glen Hollow Drive;
Bridge at Third Road East -1000m south of Ridge Road;
Gatestone Drive from Shadyglen Drive to Isaac Brock Drive;
Highland Road East from Fifth Road East to Eight Road East; and
Eighth Road East from Highland Road East to Mud Street East.



Park Sun Shelters

We have been fielding calls about the need for shade in our parks. So, I asked parks management to explore the various types of shelters, platforms and the associated costs. While the permanent shelters will likely cost more, the costs may be mitigated by less operational costs such as the annual installation of the canvas awnings. Landfill royalties will cover capital costs with no tax impacts.

A New Conservation Area Takes Root in Upper Stoney Creek

"I am over the moon with excitement, to see the construction of an engineered wetland that will help abate flooding while encouraging new ecosystems for flora, fauna and aquatic life."

Councillor Brad Clark

I am extremely excited that after many years of study and discussions, a new conservation area is quite literally taking shape this year in Ward 9.

The Salftfleet Conservation Area, (on First Road East just South of Mud Street), will feature an engineered wetland with a earthen dam to hold back flood waters which will release the water gradually over Devil's Punch-bowl. This project, while given some great vistas in Upper Stoney Creek, was designed to help protect lower Stoney Creek from flooding that has been slowly eroding private and public properties.

The design also features trails along the top of the dam with observation decks for hikers to watch the developing ecosystem

of flora and fauna which will naturally take root.

This conservation area's trail will connect with the Dofasco Trail which to the east features a 1.7 km boardwalk section that travels through the Vinemount Swamp. If you have not hiked this trail you are missing a scenic hike away from the din of traffic and urban life. Bring your bike and enjoy a ride along this trail.

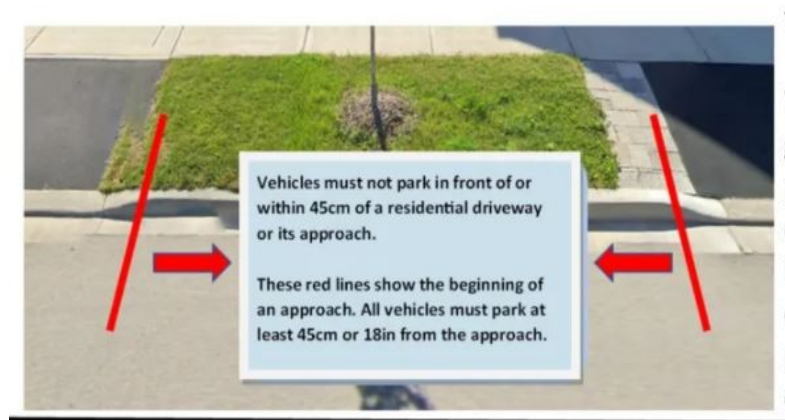
Special thanks to the Trustees of the Heritage Green Community Trust (HGCT). They supported this project with two grants totaling \$4 million: \$2m for land acquisition and \$2m for wetland construction. I previously secured a matching land acquisition grant of \$2m from the City's GFL landfill royalties .

Blocking Access to any Driveway is Illegal and Inconsiderate

I have now sent out five notices to residents about the municipal parking bylaw that prohibits vehicles from encroaching or blocking driveways. Unfortunately, we are still receiving complaints.

The city's parking bylaw ensures that all vehicles must be parked in a manner that clears any driveway approach by 45 cm or 18 inches. Vehicles that are parked within 45cm of a driveway approach can be ticketed. Any vehicle physically blocking a driveway can be towed at the owners expense which could be hundreds of dollars. Proactive parking enforcement is occurring.

If your driveway is blocked, call 905 540-6000. Please be considerate of your neighbours, don't block their driveway. Using your driveway and garage rather than parking on the street is the best approach.





Rendering of a ABC Recreation wheelchair swing to be installed in Heritage Green

First Ward 9 Wheelchair Swing Coming

Last year, I heard from a number of residents that their families would really appreciate a wheelchair swing being installed in one of our parks. They spoke of the heartbreak of walking their child through a playground where they could only watch other kids having fun on the swings. It left their child feeling left out as the existing swings are not safe if the rider can't be secured.

Shortly thereafter, I was at the Heritage Green Sports Park playground checking out the conditions of the equipment, when a young family with a disabled child came to play. It broke my heart seeing that child sitting in a chair watching your siblings use the swings. It was obviously not nearly as much fun watching as riding the swing.

During a subsequent grant brain-storming session, I shared the family's request with my fellow trustees of the Heritage Green Community Trust. They immediately wanted to help. They saw this as a legacy opportunity consistent with the Trust's mandate. The Trust charged me with the responsibility of working with city staff to find manufacturers and installers of safe wheelchair swings.

Kara Bunn, Manager of Parks, helped us find manufacturers of wheelchair swings that are safe, easy to maintain and sturdy enough to handle the weight of the chair, child and guardian. The selected swing, by ABC Recreation, (see the rendering above), will be paid for by the Heritage Green Community Trust with a total grant of \$53,143.63.

The swing will be installed in close proximity to the splash pad with easy access for the users. We are hoping for installation in late spring with children swinging away later this summer. Thank you to the Heritage Green Community Trust for their compassionate service to Ward 9.

Sidewalk Repairs



Staff organized student walking tours to assess sidewalks for trip hazards. Any raised sidewalk bay is temporarily ground down or patched with asphalt .

Staff issues one RFP for replacement of these bays in the subsequent year. In 2022, we will replace 6 km of sidewalk bays that are trip hazards.

If you have a raised sidewalk bay in front of your home and it is not marked with paint, then it may not have been captured by our staff. Please call my office to have the sidewalk inspected. To be clear, the city does not replace cracked or pitted sidewalks unless there is a demonstrable trip hazard.



Flashing Green Lights

If you see a vehicle coming from behind with flashing green lights, please yield or pull over to allow them to pass. It means volunteer firefighters are on their way to an emergency. The green flashing light is used to alert motorists that the vehicle is on its way to an emergency.

Hamilton has volunteer fire stations in Elfrida, Winona, Stoney Creek, Binbrook, Mount Hope, Ancaster, Waterdown, Greensville, Lynden, Rockton, and Freelon.



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What is happening with the Elfrida Growth District?

I promised to ensure broad public consultation to ensure that the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) was not premised only on the Elfrida Growth District (EGD).

Given that the MCR, Sub-watershed Study and Official Plan Amendments were not yet approved, I persuaded staff that the in-process secondary planning consultation was premature. I was disappointed that only residents living within 120 metres of the designated EGD were consulted. As a result, Council changed the MCR direction to a city-wide review. Subsequently, Council withdrew from an eight year long appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board that designated ONLY Elfrida as the preferred growth district.

I was also successful in convincing Council and Staff that a city-wide mail-in survey was crucial. The results of the city-wide civic engagement convinced council not to expand the urban boundary, at this time, and to submit an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) to the government to ensure that our OPA and growth plans complied with all Provincial policies. The city plans to submit their OPA to the Province by the Ministry's deadline of July 2022.

Tackling Aggressive Driving in Our Neighbourhoods

These days, it is easy to become distracted with all the fancy onboard electronics in our cars or by our cell phones. It is equally easy to ignore the very same devices and concentrate on our driving to protect ourselves, other drivers and pedestrians. To be fair, some pedestrians can also be easily distracted with their headphones, ear buds and cell phones.

How do we correct such behaviour? Traffic calming initiatives can help us change some behaviours. In Ward 9, we have been working with residents to address these concerns through a wide range of traffic calming alternatives.

In Summit Park around the schools, we have had speed cushions installed on Showcase and Bellagio. On Fletcher, we completed the sidewalks that were missing and added a crosswalks and stop signs. The road will be narrowed with flashing speed signs to be installed. Pinehill will have speed cushions installed this spring as a result of a resident petition.

Neighbourhoods south of Rymal have had traffic calming devices installed such as speed cushions on Gatestone Drive. Schools zones in Ward 9 had speed limits reduced to 30k/hr.

We have secured speed enforcement cameras on Stone Church and Bellagio. If you witness aggressive driving, call 905 546-1768 or email aggressivedriver@hamiltonpolice.on.ca.