



Councillor Brad Clark
Getting Things Done



Picture from within a karst cave.

Ward 9 Capital Works 2023

“We are smack dab in the middle of another year of road and sidewalk construction in Ward 9 so please be patient and careful.”, says Councillor Brad Clark.

Our sidewalk repair program has worked well for Ward 9. In the last term, the city replaced over 12 kilometres of sidewalk bays that had become a trip hazard at a total cost of \$1.4 million.

Every year we have summer students inspect all sidewalks. If they find a trip hazard, the area is marked with paint and is recorded in a public works database. If a sidewalk is slightly raised, staff will grind it to minimize any trip hazards. If necessary they will add an asphalt ramp. These sections will be marked for replacement. We also inspect the sidewalks on any road rebuild or shave and pave. In these cases, the contractor is directed to replace the bays and replace the corner sidewalks at all intersections to enable braille markings to assist any blind residents.

If the sidewalk in front of your home has become a trip hazard, please call the office at 905 546-2703. We will have it inspected. If the inspection results warrant replacement, we will add it to the next repair or replace-

ment cycle which is usually completed within a year.

Road Reconstruction



This year we have several road projects that have been successfully tendered.

Highland Road \$3,127,000: A complete rebuild of Highland Road is well underway from Winter-

berry Drive to Glenhollow Drive with the second section being Glenhollow Drive to First Road West. Both of these projects include concrete work repairs like curbing, driveway entrances and sidewalks.

Gatestone Drive \$1,206,000: Ward 9 was also fortunate to receive a grant from the Federal program, Canada Community Building Fund. We utilized this money on the road rebuild with concrete work repairs, curbing, driveway entrances and sidewalks. From Gatestone Drive from Shadyglen Drive to Isaac Brock Drive.

Tenth Road East \$100,000: The city is also doing completing road maintenance on Tenth Road East from Ridge Road to Highland Road.

Speed Cushions

We will also have several speed cushions and two raised crosswalks installed on First Road West and Isaac Brock Drive.

“Take a hike, eh!”

We are blessed to have four conservation areas (CA) in Ward 9. The ever popular Eramosa Karst CA is on Upper Mount Albion Road. Felkers CA is on Ackland Street. Devils Punch Bowl CA is on Ridge Road. Finally, the new Saltfleet CA and wetland is on First Road East just south of Ridge Road.

When I was first elected, Ward 9 had two small conservation areas with my big dreams of conserving even more natural heritage lands for future generations. While some opined “Good Luck”, I ignored their cynicism and doubled my efforts.

Today, I can encourage you to do some exploring with a healthy hike through our four conservation areas and trails. It is a quiet, relaxing walk with incredible vistas. If you are still and look up, you may be fortunate to see a variety of raptors, owls, song birds, squirrels, pheasants, foxes, coyotes, deer, and even some wild turkeys resting in the trees. Enjoy!



New Wheelchair Swing at Heritage Green Sports Park

The second wheel chair swing in Hamilton has been funded through the efforts of the Heritage Green Community Trust. It was almost a year ago when Trustees began researching wheel chair swings. They met with our Parks Management Team to discuss the ways and means of making their project a reality.

What Stinks in Upper Stoney Creek

Lately several residents have been asking me, “What stinks in Upper Stoney Creek.” Last term we experienced the powerful odours that come from poorly managed cannabis grow-ops. The facilities tortured local residents for a few years before police joint task-force raids shut them done.

At the same time, we started noticing another peculiar odour that smelled like rotten eggs or sewerage. Our investigations revealed that the source of the odours was the sewer trunk under Centennial Parkway. Hamilton Water staff recommended carbon scrubbers be installed on vents close to residential communities. The scrubbers are the large green boxes on the side of the road near Green Mountain Road. They solved the problem with no further odour complaints.

Most recently, neighbours have been experiencing odours from the GFL Landfill. The company sent a notice to local residents that these odours could be expected as a result of the construction of the last few landfill cells. While I understand the need to ensure a safe worksite for workers, free from any risk for landslides, the odours coming from these materials being temporarily placed on top of the landfill are ruining summer 2023. Surely there is a way of segregating these materials and capping them with clay to prevent the odour releases. The company responded that the odours were from the leachate pond which was drained and filled with ground water to stop the odours.

Please call the local MOE office at (905) 521-7650 to report any offensive odours close to the landfill.

Subsequently the Trust in a unanimous decision, awarded a grant to the City of Hamilton in the amount of \$53,000 for the addition of an accessible wheelchair swing at the Heritage Green Sports Park in Upper Stoney Creek. “This accessible swing is a much-needed addition to this park”, Trustee Liz Richardson said.

***The Heritage Green Community Trust is solely funded by GFL Environmental Inc.**



Pictured: Trustees (L-R) Lorenzo Alfano, Kim Bailey, Liz Richardson, Lori Finelli and Councillor Brad Clark. Missing: Kathy Lacasse, Jennifer Monaco and Anna Salemi.

Clark Opposes New Storm Water Rate/Tax Structure

City Council approved a new storm water rate/tax structure, dubbed a rain tax, that will take effect September 1, 2025. The initial annual fees would be \$170 for a single family home and \$85 for a semi or townhome. The report indicated that the new fee is to be revenue neutral by having an estimated offset of 12% on the current water bill. While neutral in the beginning, Clark fears that the future rates will not maintain such neutrality, given that this is supposed to be a revenue generation tool designed to pay for storm water infrastructure.

Councillor Brad Clark strongly objected to the approval of any new rate/tax structure without any public consultation. To further clarify, there were two consultations with local advocacy groups, Environment Hamilton and the Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association. At the June 28th special GIC/Council meetings, Clark said. "I have fundamental concerns about this process," stressing, "The public hasn't a clue we're huddled in here discussing a new tax." Clark seconded Councillor McMeekin's motion to defer the decision until farmers and the public could be consulted. It is worth noting that the Ag & Rural Affairs Committee asked to be consulted in 2020. This deferral motion would have delayed the decision by 2-3 months. The deferral motion was defeated 8-5.

The city is now educating the public about this newly approved rate and engaging with the public on the credits and incentives for this program. You can learn more at: <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/house-home/home-water-services/water-rates/stormwater-funding-review>

Feeding Wildlife Creates Problems

Ward 9 is blessed with more natural heritage than most wards. We have four Conservation Areas operated by the Hamilton Conservation Area (HCA). It contains numerous streams, creeks and natural water course that are regulated by two conservation authorities, the second being the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). We have a dozen passive and/or recreational parks some with natural open spaces and woodlots. We are nestled into the Niagara Escarpment which is designated as a UNESCO world biosphere reserve.

These natural areas are home to a broad array of flora and fauna. The wildlife has adjusted to us as neighbours but they also see us a food source which can create several unintended problems. Feeding wildlife is usually well intended, but we do not see all of the ramifications. For example, bird-feeding stations attract many of our non-feathered friends and even some predators. Bird feeders, if not cleaned regularly can fuel the spread of avian viruses. In our area, fox, coyotes, and raptors learn where the bird feeders are located much like we know where our favourite drive-thru is located. Feeders also attract undesirable rat populations.

Please do not leave dog food or meat products outside to feed hungry coyotes. They are shrewd predators and have been known to prey on domestic pets. So please think twice about feeding wildlife.

NOTE: City By-law 12-130 prohibits feeding the wildlife



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Playground Equipment Replacement Timetable

The following is the our timelines for the replacement of aging playground infrastructure in Ward 9 which is dependent on the results from our tendering.

Valley Park	Consultation in 2024 Installation Spring 2025
Felker Park	Consultation in 2024 Installation spring 2025
Paramount Park	Consultation in 2025 Installation spring 2026
Maplewood Park	Consultations in 2025 Installation Spring 2026
White Deer Park	Consultation in 2025 Installation Spring 2026

Rejuvenating Our Park Playgrounds

A tour of Ward 9 playground equipment revealed some equipment that is not aging as well as others. We found wood chip mats under some playground equipment to be lacking in volume. We noticed that some equipment is rusted to the point that the equipment is flaking under the paint.

As a result of our inspection, my office has been working with Parks Management to formerly assess the condition of all the playground equipment. Our goal was to set a timetable for replacement of playground equipment before they present any safety issues. Naturally, this work will include local community consultation through Engage Hamilton. Parents know their children best and can provide us their thoughts on new playground equipment as to the type and the style. The variety of styles and designs is extensive, so our staff will have renderings prepared. Please note the estimated cost is \$300,000 per playground which is to be funded from landfill royalties and not the tax levy.



Ward 9 Piloting Direct School Route

Direct School Route, (DSR), has developed a structured and robust approach to school travel that creates active transportation systems for kids with the aspiration of 100% of students walking/wheeling to/from school daily. DSR has been tested in multiple schools and has involved the City, School Boards and Civic Plan as partners.

Ward 9 has ten elementary schools located in areas with a variety of land-use and transportation network characteristics.

Our schools are experiencing significant traffic and parking challenges that needs to be addressed for the safety of our children.

Accordingly we were successful in having Ward 9 selected as the initial ward-wide pilot for the application of the Daily School Route (DSR) approach under an agreement between the City and the DSR. You can learn more about the DSR Program at <https://dailyschoolroute.org>. We are hopeful that this program will help resolve safety issues caused by illegal parking in front of schools.



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