



Hamilton



## Brad Clark Winter Report

### Council Opposes Urban Boundary Expansion in Elfrida Growth Area

In the last election, Ward 9 residents raised concerns about the magnitude of growth (80,000 new residents) being proposed for the Elfrida Area, the lack of public consultation and the costs to taxpayers.

I requested a comprehensive infrastructure and transportation assessment to ascertain the real costs for Elfrida infrastructure upgrades. Staff indicated that the costs would be approximately \$200 million of which development charges paid for 80% while leaving 20% to the taxpayers. Clearly, growth does not pay for growth.

I advocated for a city-wide Municipal Comprehensive review that did not designate Elfrida **as the only growth area**. Unfortunately, the new provincial growth projections and the inclusion of market needs still left Elfrida with an expected 60,000 new residents in the proposed expansion. I strongly suggested that the secondary planning process for Elfrida was premature. Staff agreed and shelved the discussions.

Finally, I moved a motion directing staff to conduct a mail out city survey which would ensure all households the opportunity to send their thoughts to council. While we only expected a response rate of 2-3%, our actual survey response was unprecedented with almost 10% of 210,00 households responding. With 90% opposed, there was clear direction from residents that the proposed urban boundary expansion was a non-starter for them.

Consequently, I was not surprised when a clear majority of Council opposed the proposed ambitious plan and directed staff to bring back the planning policies and bylaws needed to ensure that future development within the urban boundary complies with the province's legislation, regulations and policies.

**Thank you to all the residents who engaged on this crucial decision.**



### Road Access in Snow Events

The city is conducting a parking review of narrow streets in Ward 9 due to safety concerns during snow events. As a result, there soon may be some parking prohibitions on one side of your street during winter months.

Last year, we had an incident where an EMS vehicle could not get to a home due to double parked cars and snow banks. Our public works staff were able to assist with the retrieval of the resident in distress.

I urge residents **NOT** to park on the street during snow events. Please use your garage and driveway. It is essential that we maintain access for emergency vehicles and snow plows. It is much appreciated.

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## Road Works - What You Can Expect

In the 2018 election, I made a commitment to address the state of repair of our roads and sidewalks. Accordingly, I have been working with staff to assess the conditions of our assets and expedite repairs wherever possible.

In 2022, Ward 9 was provided an additional \$2 million for road rehabilitation projects as well as the roads that have been approved in our five year capital plan.

### The following is the list of approved road projects for 2022:

- ◆ Mud St. from Isaac Brock Dr to Upper Centennial Parkway
- ◆ Highland Rd from Glenhollow Rd to First Rd. W
- ◆ Highland Rd Winterberry to Glenhollow Rd
- ◆ Bridge at Third Rd E 1000m south of Ridge Rd
- ◆ Gatestone Dr from Shadyglen Dr to Isaac Brock Rd
- ◆ Highland Rd E from Fifth Rd E to Eighth Rd E
- ◆ Eighth Rd E from Highland Rd to Mud St

### The following is a list of approved road projects for 2023:

- ◆ Highland Rd from First Rd to Upper Centennial Parkway
- ◆ Leckie Ave from Byron Ave to Highland Rd W

### The following is a list of approved road projects for 2024:

- ◆ Paramount Dr from Winterberry Dr to Mud St (south side of Mud)
- ◆ Upper Centennial Parkway from Rymal Rd to Mud St
- ◆ Mud St from Winterberry Dr to Paramount Dr
- ◆ Upper Centennial Parkway from Mud St to Green Mountain Rd

Please note that the roads are assessed after every winter season and this list may change depending of roads state of repair.

## 2021 Road Construction Races to End

As our annual season of road construction races to an end, I along with our city staff, and contractors wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to residents for their patience and co-operation. We know that all of this road work has been frustrating.

### 2021 roadwork included the following:

- ◆ the widening of Regional Rd #56
- ◆ the opening of the new intersection and access to Dalgleish Trail
- ◆ the widening of Rymal Rd with upgrades to sewers
- ◆ the construction of sidewalks along Rymal Rd
- ◆ the reconstruction of the Mud St bridge
- ◆ the resurfacing of Mud St from Paramount Dr to Isaac Brock Dr
- ◆ reconstruction of Bridge 150 Tapleytown Rd just north of Green Mountain Rd
- ◆ final coat asphalt Upper Mount Albion Rd
- ◆ final coat asphalt on Highland Rd E of Winterberry Dr
- ◆ final coat asphalt on Narbonne Cres

Each year, our summer student staff walk the sidewalks across the entire ward to assess sidewalk conditions. They take pictures and attach GPS co-ordinates. Sidewalks are marked for either grinding, repairs or replacement. Sidewalks that are deemed to be a trip hazard are identified for replacement.

This year, we were also successful in addressing a sizeable amount of the ward's sidewalk repair deficit by replacing 6kms of sidewalk bays where they were assessed as being a trip hazard.

In 2022, we have approval to proceed with replacing another 6 kms of sidewalk bays.

If you have a sidewalk that has been raised by the freeze and thaw cycles of our winter weather, please contact our office by email at [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:brad.clark@hamilton.ca) (with a picture if possible), or call our office number at **(905) 546-2703**. We will have the bay assessed and added to our 2022 work roster depending on the condition of the sidewalk.

## Engineered Wetland Gets Greenlight

I am excited to report that the long awaited Saltfleet Conservation Area wetland restoration project has been approved by the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors. This project has been a vision of Scott Peck, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering.

This is a legacy project that will serve many future generations. As such, I advocated for funding from the city and the Heritage Green Community Trust (HGCT). I wish to acknowledge and thank the HGCT



trustees for their continued financial support through grants. The HGCT provided a land acquisition grant of \$2 million which was matched by the City of Hamilton through Terrapure Royalties.

Recently, the HGCT met with the HCA to discuss the actual wetland construction plans. The first phase of construction is expected to begin in early 2022. The HGCT trustees expressed full support with a further grant of \$2 million to cover these costs.

This engineered wetland will hold back storm water with berms that are designed to operate like a dam. The water will be slowly released over the



Devil's Punch Bowl water fall.

These human made berms will also have trails or boardwalks along the top with observation decks for the public to view the ecosystem that will develop naturally over time. The trails will connect with the Dofasco Trail and the Devil's Punch Bowl Conservation Area. The Saltfleet Conservation Area parking lot is now open for hikers.

The development of the next wetlands will be paid for through the generosity of donors to the Hamilton Conservation Foundation and royalties from the Stoney Creek Regional Facility.

If you would like to take a virtual tour of the land, you can use this YouTube link at your leisure.

<https://youtu.be/vEjzZ6YqK38>



## Upper Centennial Parkway Stinky Sewer Smell Solved



After the construction of the sewer trunk, residents have complained of offensive odours along Upper Centennial Parkway & Region Rd. #56. Well, no more!

The City has installed carbon filter scrubbers to remove the “stink” factor. Thank you to staff for successfully solving this problem. I appreciate resident’s patience while we tackled this technical issue.



**Merry Christmas Everyone**



**Councillor Brad Clark Office**  
71 Main St W, Room 203  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

**Office: (905) 546-2703**  
**Private Cell: (905) 977-0679**

**Constituent Assistant,**  
**Robert Ribaric**  
**Direct: (905) 546-3210**

**Email: [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:brad.clark@hamilton.ca)**  
**[www.bradclarkreport.com](http://www.bradclarkreport.com)**

**After Hours: (905) 546-2489**  
**Parking Enforcement: (905) 540-6000**

### Councillor Brad Clark’s Christmas Message

As the Holiday season approaches and folks rush around to find the perfect gifts or plan the perfect dinner, take some time to pause and reflect on Christmases past. My father worked in construction and back then he was laid off every winter. So, money was frequently tight. But, we always found a gift or two under the tree and three of Dad’s freshly washed wool socks for good children filled with a few goodies including the traditional orange.

After attending the family mass, my siblings and I were quick to get ready for bed as we knew that Santa Claus was on his way. We would watch CHCH TV and listen to CHML for broadcasts from the NORAD Radar reporting the sleigh’s location. We’d peak out the window, pointing to every plane with a shriek, “It’s Santa.” We would try to stay awake for hours listening for the patter of reindeer on our roof. Every noise prompted another whisper, “Shhh, did you hear that.... Someone is on the roof.” “Shush, I am trying to hear.” My father bellowed from down stairs, “No talking, and get to sleep before Santa comes.” “Yeeeessss, Dad.”

Christmas morning came early and we would literally spring from our beds. We’d run down stairs to find the tree lit up with toys neatly lined up in three rows. The excitement had our hearts racing. “Santa came, he really came.” All these years later, I still get up early with that Christmas morning feeling. My stomach flutters. My heart races. The phone rings and my granddaughter screams, “Merry Christmas Papa. Santa Claus came.”

As you prepare for your holiday gatherings, please remember your neighbours who live alone and parents who need help to provide a dinner and gifts for their children. Please donate food and new toys to our local food banks. Let’s help the less fortunate have a truly blessed Christmas.

**I wish you and your family a healthy and happy Christmas.**