



Hamilton



Brad Clark Winter Report

Elfrida District Urban Boundary Merry-go-round

If residents in Upper Stoney Creek had a vague feeling of being on a merry-go-round regarding the Elfrida district urban boundary expansion, they would not be far off the mark.

On October 15, 2019, then Minister Steve Clark (no relation) took an unprecedented step and wrote a opinion piece in the Spectator to excoriate the Hamilton City Council in anticipation of their OPA application. The Municipal Act requires the Minister to review and sign off on official Plan amendments (OPA) generated from municipal comprehensive reviews. Upon receiving the OPA, the Minister can approve, reject, or modify. It is a prescriptive legislative process. In Hamilton’s case, the Minister attempted to preempt the usual legislated process when he tried to interfere publicly with Council’s decision.

After rejecting earlier staff advice to extend the boundary, City Council worked with planning staff to approve what is ostensibly a freeze on the urban boundary for the next ten years. All approved official plans must be reviewed by and not less than 10 years.

Government disclosed documents as part of a lawsuit revealed that the Minister or his staff consulted local developers on the OPA. At no time during his review period, did the Minister or his staff consult the City of Hamilton. He amended our OPA to satisfy the developers’ suggestions. Subsequent to the Auditor General’s review of the plans to remove lands from the greenbelt, a new Minister was appointed and he reviewed all OPA decisions. He reversed the decision based on his findings of political interference by the previous Minister and staff. As a result, City Council reconfirmed our original decision to hold the line on the urban boundary. By legislation, the OPA must be reviewed within the next ten years.

Hopefully, the merry-go-round has stopped spinning... for awhile.



Parking during Snow Events

Earlier this year, the City of Hamilton parking operations team in consultation with our EMS reviewed the clearance on several narrow streets. As a result of the review, it was clear that these streets, during the winter, had limited clearance for our large EMS & Fire vehicles. Accordingly, the parking bylaw was changed to limit parking to one side of the road during winter months for the following streets: Bradshaw Drive, Prestwick Street, Pagebrook Crescent, Tilden Avenue, Hedges Crescent, and Scarletwood Street.

I urge all residents **not to park** on streets during snow events. Please use garages and driveways. It is essential that we maintain access for emergency vehicles and snow plows. Thank you.

Inside this Edition

- No to Urban Boundary Expansion...1
- Street Parking in Snow Events 1
- Road Works - What to Expect..... 2
- Wetland Gets Greenlight.....3
- Stinky Sewer Fix..... 4
- Brad’s Holiday Message..... 4



Ward 9 Capital Works

Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Projects:

The following is a list of road projects completed in 2023:

- ◆ Highland Road W. / First Road West to Glen Hollow Drive
- ◆ Highland Road W. / Glen Hollow Drive to Winterberry Drive
- ◆ Young Street
- ◆ Tenth Road E.

Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Projects 2024:

The following is a list of approved road projects for 2024

- ◆ Fifty Road escarpment access retaining walls

Capital Plans 2025+

Highland Road W. First Road W to Upper Centennial Pkwy

*delayed due to redesign for sanitary/storm pipes

Byron Avenue and Aubrey Avenue urbanization

Leckie Ave from Byron Avenue to Highland Road urbanization

Upper Centennial Pkwy from Rymal Road to Mud Street

Sidewalk repairs and replacement

Every spring we have sidewalks assessed for trip hazards. If you wish to report a sidewalk in front of your home, please call our office at 905 546-2307.

Traffic calming Initiatives & Traffic Management

We had speed cushions installed on several streets. Traffic lights were changed at Upper Centennial Pkwy. and Green Mountain Road W. and we continue to work with residents to improve pedestrian safety on residential streets. We are grateful for the additional the presence of Hamilton Police Traffic Division in areas with several reports of aggressive driving. We encourage drivers to slow down and be careful.

Parks and Playground Equipment

Valley Park: playground replacement in 2024; Paramount Park: a new path from the pathway to playground in 2024. I am pleased to report that long awaited Picardy Park has started. The city has assumed the park from the developer, sodding has been completed, neighbourhood consultations 2023/24 with installation of playground, basketball courts, sun shade pavilion, benches and paths for 2025. We appreciate your patience.

GFL Landfill Odour Updates

As most residents in Ward 9 are aware, there has been ongoing odour issues since May.

At one point, my office was hearing from residents many kilometres away from the site.

In August, I asked the Hamilton Public Health Committee to request the MECP conduct air monitoring to identify the substances in the odours.

Shortly after, the MECP did conduct air monitoring and revealed the main substance as hydrogen sulphide. Hamilton Public Health reviewed the report and indicated that the strength of the data did not present any public health impacts. However, staff did caution that persistently strong odours may result in nausea, headaches, asthma, and sore throats. At the time local residents raised concerns that the testing was not done at night when the odours were the strongest. Consequently, I started the process of seeking Council approval to conduct independent third party air monitoring.

Subsequently, the MECP conducted air monitoring during late evening hours. The results clearly vindicated residents as the hydrogen sulfide numbers were 20x higher than previous testing. Once again, Hamilton public health reviewed the MECP report and determined no direct threat to public health but residents could still feel ill from the persistent noxious odours.

On October 2, October 17, and October 18, our Environmental Enforcement team after conducting samples from the manhole cover at the GFL sewer connection, issued a violation notices as the levels of Hydrogen Sulfide exceeds permissible limits.

On October 26, the City Council also supported my call for a resolution requesting that the government of Ontario extend municipalities veto authority over new landfills to include the expansion of existing landfills.

I also appreciated the Mayor and Council's support of my motion to prepare for independent air monitoring in the spring when the snow melt will increase the leachate production. While this landfill is under provincial license and regulation, I really appreciate Councils support. I hope it won't be needed.

2023 City Hall Christmas Tree Donated from Upper Stoney Creek



Tree Donated from Upper Stoney Creek

Every year the City of Hamilton puts out a call to property owners who have a very large pine tree that they would be willing to donate for the centre piece of the Christmas/holidays display in our City Hall forecourt.

This year Domenic Celeste and family from Upper Stoney Creek, responded to the call with a stunningly magnificent 25 foot blue spruce. The city arranged the tree cutting by our forestry staff. A crane was needed to lift it onto a flat bed truck. It was delivered to the City Hall forecourt where a full team of experts guided the lifting and safe installation. Watching safely from my office window, I could tell that this was no easy task. Sheesh, I thought lifting my artificial tree up those ten stairs from the basement was a challenge... and trust me, it was. LOL

Our staff working safely from a lift strung the tree with over 2,500 coloured lights and placed over 1,000 supersized ornaments. It is then surrounded by several festive holiday season inspired planter displays which really added to the spectacular holiday display. We are so grateful appreciation to the Celeste Family. We wish them, you and your family Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year.



Councillor Brad Clark's Christmas Message



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Aggressive driver hotline

905 546 1768

Hamilton Police Services

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 905-546-4925
<https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca>

Hamilton Fire Services

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 905-546-3333

Hamilton Paramedic Services

Emergency 911
Non-emergency 905-540-5782

When I was a child way back in the sixties, there was always a feeling that I would get as the Christmas season approached. It was a peculiar feeling that was likely alerted by all of my senses.

The unique scent of fresh pine trees was somehow completely different during the holidays. We helped decorate the tree by throwing clumps of silver tinsel. Miraculously, the next morning they were perfectly arranged as if by magic. The aroma of all those different cookies, my favourite Scottish short bread and my Aunt's home made fruit cakes was wonderful. These speciality baked goods were only ever baked at Christmas. If I close my eyes, I can actually smell them baking now.

As Christmas eve drew ever closer, one evening the whole family climbed into the family ford station wagon. I climbed in the back where I could crawl around to see all the lights, (no seat belts back in those days). The ride downtown to the Eatons' Department store was so exciting, except for my father's occasional outburst, "If you don't knock it off, I'll turn this car around right now!" My mother would interject, "Your father means Santa Claus is watching you."

We couldn't wait to see Eatons' famous animated Christmas window displays. There were toys and more toys. There was a toy train with lit windows in the cars, belching real smoke that travelled throughout this make-believe North Pole. In one window there was a large robotic Santa Claus waving at the kids that was actually saying "Ho. Ho. Ho". His mouth moved and everything. He had animated elves climbing ladders and building toys. There were animated people skating on glossy ice rinks. Speakers were blasting out the carols and all the bright lights were so mesmerizing for the little children that many of us had our little noses flattened against the window.

Inside Eatons, we would find the elevator. Waiting patiently, the doors opened wide and there stood a lady dressed in a blue uniform wearing white gloves and she announced, "Main floor". She actually controlled the elevator with a brass lever that slid in an arc pointing to up, stop and down. Then she announced, "next car please" and placed her hand up in a stop motion. At every floor, she made an announcement. Then as the doors opened one more time, she looked down at me and announced with a smile and a wink, "Toy department." Our eyes grew wide with audible gasps from all the kids. As we followed the crowd of tall people, holding my mom's hand tightly, we came upon a giant red chair. There was the one and the only Santa Claus. He was sitting tall in his dark red outfit. His beard was so white and real too. I know because I pulled it and he said, "Ouch, Bradley don't pull my beard". I spun around and looked at my mom mouthing the words, "Wow, he knows my name!" To which, he give a big Ho Ho Ho. On the way home, there wasn't a peep from us kids because Santa Claus was coming to town and we all knew that he was watching.