



# COUNCILLOR BRAD CLARK

## SPRING REPORT 2026



Hamilton

Spring 2026

Ward 9



### Watch for Coyotes

If you happen to cross paths with a coyote on your hike, remain calm and give it space. Coyotes typically prefer to avoid people, and chances are when it sees you, it will quickly head in the opposite direction. Coyotes are naturally curious creatures and may pause to look you over, but will have no intention to approach or attack. If you do feel threatened by a coyote, make loud noises, blow a whistle, (available at my Ward 9 office) and make sudden movements to scare it away. Do not run. Running can trigger chase behaviours. Parents should supervise children and stay on marked trails or pathways. When walking dogs, keep them on a leash as all dogs, regardless of size, can be at risk of becoming predated or injured by coyotes. Note: dogs and coyotes are close cousins; the scent of your dog may cause coyotes to become more territorial. <https://conservationhamilton.ca/blog/living-with-coyotes>

The City and the HCA have placed large signs to alert people to coyote activity in specific areas. We encourage residents to avoid walking, hiking, jogging or cycling in areas known to be inhabited by coyotes around peak activity times (e.g. sunrise, sunset). In the event that a coyote is presenting an **immediate threat to public safety**, residents should call Hamilton Animal Services at 905-574-3433 or the police at 911. Please alert us to any coyote encounters by email at [ward9@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward9@hamilton.ca).

### Highbury Meadows Park

The long expected Highbury Meadows Park and playground, just south of Saltfleet High School, will be installed this summer. It has been a long and difficult process to have the park installed under the traditional city agreement with the developer. Unfortunately, the contract had the park development timing under the developer's control and the park was stalled long after occupancy. I had to intervene to have the sod removed twice to remove thistles. In the end, the parkland was assumed by the city and the community engagement was undertaken. The final design was approved with procurement in January 2026. The playground and amenities will be started in the second quarter.

### Assessing and Improving Ward 9 Playgrounds

This term, I have been working with the Director of Environmental Services, finance staff and procurement staff to improve the condition of Ward 9 playgrounds and parks.

Our parks staff assessed the condition of the all parks and playgrounds in Ward 9. Most of our playgrounds are in reasonable condition. However, the staff assessment determined that **Whitedeer Park, Felker Park and Paramount Park** require both the replacement of the playground equipment and the repaving of the pathways. Staff have estimated that the work can be done within a cap of \$725,000. The engagement "Play Your Way" would happen this year to help select the replacement structures and the actual replacements can be anticipated in spring or summer of 2027. Working with my colleagues on the Public Works Committee, we successfully convinced the members and the Council to support a motion to direct staff to proceed with the work and to be funded through the landfill royalty funds with no impact to the tax levy .

### Eyes on the Ward

Ward 9 is a geographically large ward with over 85% being rural, a 100% secondary planned suburban area and a few settlement areas. To monitor the ward for municipal issues needing service, I frequently conduct ward tours and refer issues to city staff. But, even with this diligence I still need residents to help keep me informed about the conditions in their neighbourhoods.

We always appreciate emails alerting us to potholes, sidewalk trip hazards, broken playground equipment, fallen trees, dumped garbage, graffiti, abandoned cars, burnt out street lights, overland flooding, traffic management issues and other concerns.

To that end, we are encouraging you to report such issues to our "Eyes on the Ward" email, [ward9@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward9@hamilton.ca).

Please include your name, address, and phone number. Any identifying information that is received is deemed to be 100% confidential under provincial law, MFIPPA, and will not be shared with anyone without your prior written consent.

## GFL Landfill Odours Update



It was around late April 2023, when residents started to notice a strongly obnoxious odour that appeared to be coming from the GFL Stoney Creek Regional facility.

At that point, records show an average of 12 odour complaints annually. Things changed dramatically in 2023. Over 3,000 resident complaints were reported to the MOE. Resident frustration with the MOE and GFL exploded when they started to dismiss their complaints as: “someone cooking fish”, “it’s garbage day”, and “no, I don’t smell anything.”

Notwithstanding the fact that the landfill is licensed, monitored and regulated by the Province, I made the decision to be a strong municipal voice for residents. Upon learning that the MOE air monitoring was done during the day, I **advocated for night-time testing as well**. These tests showed hydrogen sulfides hit a high of 20x provincial air quality standards.

As a result, City council unanimously approved my request to **conduct independent third-party air monitoring** which verified the odours. Further, it demonstrated that the odours could be present yet not detected by the equipment. I **requested Hamilton Public Health review air monitoring reports**. They reported that exposure to these odours, while not an immediate public health risk could cause headaches, sore throats and/or nausea for some people. I advocated for continued **clay capping of waste cells that hit the final contours**. Council supported **my motion to review any tax relief**. We learned that legislation prohibits such discounting within a class of taxpayers. Council supported my motion to **direct staff to retain third party expert counsel to proceed with a Municipal Act Section 447.1 application to close landfill operations until the odour is abated**. This litigation is to be paid for by landfill royalties and is proceeding. I **also searched for class action law firms and made two referrals to STAND**. Subsequently, they retained a law firm who is building their case and meeting with interested residents living with 3km of the landfill. It is important to note that many of the residents have lived in their homes for decades, well before the landfill. Others were told the landfill was closing in 2018 when purchasing their new home. All residents deserve peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Some scurrilous rumours continue to circulate about my past involvement with Terrapure as a third-party consultant from 12 years ago. To be clear, I was originally retained to create a closure plan for the landfill. When it was clear that the MOE would likely approve the expansion, I made the deliberate and conscious decision to work on the inside to help minimize the impact to the community rather than thumping my chest on the outside. I have been transparent, open and fully compliant with the Council Code of Conduct over my two terms in office. I have consistently demonstrated my loyalty and integrity through my ongoing fight to stop the odours, cap the landfill and close it.



## Elfrida Urban Boundary Hearing Update

In 2021, I pushed and secured unanimous Council support for a city-wide survey that would be mailed to all homes. The results of the survey indicated 18,000 people were opposed to the proposed urban boundary expansion in Elfrida. On November 21, 2021, a clear majority of Council supported an urban boundary freeze until the next municipally initiated comprehensive review.

The province objected, opposed and rejected the council's decision and then reversed their decision. Subsequently, in an unprecedented decision, the province gave developers the legal right to file their own private urban boundary expansions with the city. Three groups of property owners filed such applications and quickly filed appeals to the Ontario Lands Tribunal. The OLT hearings have started and will be heard throughout this year and next. Elfrida's hearing is scheduled to start January 2027. While the city defends its land needs assessment and council's decision, it appears to me that given recent legislation and provincial policy changes, the OLT hearing is going to be an uphill struggle. I will keep you informed through these newsletters, by email blast, and [bradclarkreport.com](http://bradclarkreport.com).

## Elfrida Private Secondary Plan Submitted

Recent provincial changes also enables landowners to submit private secondary plans. Please be advised that the Elfrida Landowners Group have submitted their private secondary plans which starts the clock for a city response with 120 days.

Accordingly, the city will be hosting two public meetings one virtual on June 11 and an in-person on June 17 at Winterberry Heights, Church 300 Winterberry Drive, to share the details of this application with the public.

The Planning Act prescribes a **minimum of 120 metres** for consultation, however I have regularly pushed for a wider consultation as these developments can impact local adjacent communities. Accordingly, staff will mail the notice to all properties within **400 metres of the Elfrida Lands** as well as the urban expansion email database. We will be sharing the above information on my web page [bradclarkreport.com](http://bradclarkreport.com) for your consideration and responses.

## Upgrades to Maplewood Park

Upgrades to Maplewood Park are now well underway. The work involves the construction of a new multi-use court, concrete bench pads, asphalt pathway removal and asphalt hot mix overlay, new asphalt pathway to multi-use court, tree planting, New sod and sod restoration. To help minimize any impacts from the basketball play, the pad is located at least 50m away from any residents' homes.

During this time you may experience some inconveniences such as noise, dust, and restricted traffic movement. Every effort will be made to complete the work in a timely manner and to keep any inconvenience to a minimum. We ask for your patience during this period.

The upgrade visualized below will be substantially completed by this summer, weather permitting.



### Valley Park Bike Share Pilot

Hamilton Bike Share, the City of Hamilton and Councillor Brad Clark are exploring a pilot bike share hub in Valley Park this summer, July & August.

More details to come!

#### Follow on X

@HamOntBikeShare

@BCouncillor

@cllrbradclark.bsky.social

### Tapleytown Park Cricket Pilot

After several productive discussions with city recreation staff and Mr. Ranjit Chaudhri, President of the Hamilton & District Cricket League, the city is moving forward with a temporary cricket pitch at Tapleytown Park. I have seen the demand for cricket pitches increase significantly in recent years. I have seen young people playing cricket at local ball diamonds and parks. It is a lot tougher than it looks! Special thanks to local cricket enthusiast, Mr. Naseer Malik.



## Violence Against Women & Children Living in Rural Areas

As of May 2026, Hamilton City Council approved a motion by Councillor Brad Clark to secure \$250,000 in funding for the Interval House of Hamilton's Women's Education and Rural Support (WEARS) program. The proposed funding covers the period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and is intended to sustain essential rural outreach, mobile service delivery, and safety planning for victims of gender-based violence (GBV).

### Key Details of the Motion and Funding

- **The Goal:** The motion seeks to bridge funding gaps for the WEARS program, which provides crucial support services, such as counselling and system navigation, in rural areas of Hamilton, including Upper Stoney Creek, Glanaster, Binbrook, Dundas, Ancaster, and Winona.
- **Funding Sources:** The \$250,000 is proposed to be drawn from a combination of a \$40,319 surplus from a previous agreement, \$175,000 from the Human Service Integration program, and \$34,681 from the Children's and Community Services Reserve.
- **Context:** Rural women face intimate partner violence at a rate 75% higher than urban women,

During the debate, Councillor Clark addressed the increases in intimate partner violence in rural areas. He spoke of the rural isolation and control. His ward is 85% rural. He challenged councillors that you don't know what fear is until you have experienced that kind of violence and terror.

Councillor Clark told an emotional story about his own experience with family violence as a child. He shared a deeply personal story, fighting back tears, about his father's rage, anger and violence against himself and others. "That never leaves you", he said. "It never leaves you!" The motion passed unanimously.



## Sidewalk Repair Program

Special thanks to all the residents who reported sidewalks in need of repair that were trip hazards. I really appreciate your assistance in making our communities safer. To date, we have seen 16km of sidewalk bays replaced in the last eight years. The program was a success because of you. Your reports to my office are verified by staff and added to any reports through the city-line (905) 546-2489. I use Ward Minor Maintenance budget, with funds from senior levels of government, to get these things done.

## Frequent Questions & Answers with Brad

### 1) Brad, can you tell me what is happening with this new rain tax?

First, let me give readers some history. On June 28, 2023, a Special General Issues Committee meeting was held to address a staff report, "Stormwater Funding Review". It was followed 15 minutes later by a Special Council meeting to ratify the decision.

My first question to staff was, "Can I ask what public consultation occurred on this proposal? I understand Environment Hamilton and the Industry Council, but what broad public consultation occurred?" Staff admitted, "There was no broad public consultation."

I objected to the lack of public notice on the implementation of a NEW stormwater fee, tagged as the "Rain Tax". I argued that there should be at least a 30-day public consultation before adding any new tax or fee. I stated, "... the public hasn't a clue that we're huddled in here talking about a new tax." A motion was moved by McMeekin and seconded by Clark to defer the decision for 30 days for broad public consultation. The motion was defeated 5-8.

I also asked about the claim that it was revenue neutral stating that it's only revenue neutral because we are moving \$14million to the climate change reserve.

Staff responded, "The Councillor is correct. It is not revenue neutral".

Subsequently, the province notified the city of a pending regulation prohibiting stormwater fees on farms and rural properties. At their Dec. 10, 2025 council meeting, Hamilton City Council voted 10-5 in favour of deferring the municipality's planned stormwater fee or Rain Tax until January 2027. I supported the deferral, as it is wise to wait for Province's decision before taxing residents.

### 2) What is happening at the 34 Mistywood complex?

Stoney Creek Community Homes Inc. is proposing the development of a 6-storey multiple dwelling, 128 residential units (34 one bedroom, 71 two bedroom, and 23 three bedroom), including nine barrier-free units. The design has the 6 storey section backing on to the commercial mall with the 4 storey section adjacent to the parking lot at Paramount Place. This design is meant to mitigate concerns about privacy of existing residents. This development will be geared to income, meaning some tenants will pay market or subsidized rent. I participated in two well attended public meetings. A public hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2026 at City Hall. Residents can submit comments or request to speak by emailing to [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca) <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-council/news-notice/news-releases/complete-application-34-mistywood-drive-stoney-creek>



### 3) I heard the city was creating a tree bylaw that could prevent me from cutting down trees on my private property or I would have to pay for a permit. What gives?

In 2023, staff were directed to develop and seek public feedback on a Harmonized Private Tree Bylaw which would apply to the urban boundary only. There was public consultation through the web based Engage Hamilton.

The **proposed bylaw has not been approved** by Council. If approved, it would require permit to remove a tree that is 45cm in diameter. There would be a \$300 permit fee. I have expressed concerns that it is just another fee and interferes with urban private homeowners property rights. The proposal is expected to come to Council later this year.



### 4) What is happening at Heritage Green Sports Park?

I have been in discussions with the Heritage Green Community Trust, (HGCT), about paving the roadway. They agreed to fund the \$300,000 contract. Public Works is managing the paving of the park road from First Road West to Echovalley Drive with several speed cushions. The work is in response to residents' frequent complaints about dust clouds kicked up by vehicles.

**Special thanks to HGCT members for their support.**