

Ward 15 Newsletter – Summer 2005



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City Hires ‘Dream Team’ to Deal With Quarry Application: The city has hired what I am calling a “dream team” of experts in the field of aggregate applications in order to deal with the city’s evaluation of the Lowndes’ application. This application requires a rezoning and official plan amendment to create a 500-acre quarry at the corner of 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line. This is great news for those of us battling this application. First of all, it ensures that the city now has a team full of expertise with which to analyze, evaluate and give professional opinion on what will most likely be a very long legal battle against the Lowndes’ application. It further ensures that there are no mis-steps on our behalf if and when this application is fought in court. Having these professionals familiar with the proposal from the beginning and given their extensive experience in their chosen fields, as well as their past legal experience with quarries, their hiring represents a major boost in the right direction for those of us wanting to fight this quarry application.

Lister Block renovation a waste of \$30 million: It’s pretty tough to rationalize Hamilton Council’s decision to sink \$30 million into helping renovate a building owned by the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) as anything other than a colossal waste of taxpayers’ dollars that we don’t even have.

As a collective group, Hamilton Council just seems to be finding new ways to spend money and this time, it’s not even on ourselves. Unfortunately, I was just one of three dissenting votes when the Lister Block proposal came to Council on May 9, the others being West Flamborough Councillor Dave Braden and Glanbrook Councillor Dave Mitchell.

The 15-year lease with LIUNA will see the city lease 60,000 square feet in the to-be-renovated Lister Block building, owned by LIUNA, at nearly double the going rate for downtown rentals. That means that we helping fund LIUNA to fix their own building. At the same meeting, Hamilton council also decided to sink \$38

million to renovating Hamilton City Hall and pledged to build a second City Hall tower at a cost of \$65 million by 2018. That second tower will ring up some \$30 million in debt charges for the city.

I can understand the importance of downtown revitalization as well as the next person but when the taxes continue to rise in Flamborough, my residents are continually telling me that they are tired of footing the bill for downtown. An initiative like this one, whereby we are playing Santa Claus to a developer, doesn't do much to dispel that notion from the minds of Ward 15 ratepayers. Developers are supposed to pay us; we're not suppose to pay them. Paying twice the going rate to rent this space is an indefensible waste of taxpayers' money.

Let's Tie School Construction To New Developments: Those of you with long memories may remember my Flamborough fight to have new development tied into the construction of new schools. They might also remember me getting a lot of community support from citizens who placed signs on their front lawns, reading "**Flamborough kids need Flamborough schools.**" In the end, Flamborough Council agreed, much to the development industry's chagrin (to put it charitably). I have been working on implementing that same Flamborough resolution within Hamilton since amalgamation but have met with little success... so far. To that end, I will need to seek my constituents' support by petitioning Hamilton City Council in the near future and bringing further awareness of this issue to the forefront. Policies have to change or we will be back to looking at having our kids bussed out-of-town to other areas for schooling. The citizens' pressure worked with Flamborough Council. I'll be looking for that same citizen's support in petitioning Hamilton Council, too.

Carlisle Depot Open Again: The Carlisle Leaf and Yard Waste Depot, located at 1255 Centre Road has been reopened again for our constituents' convenience from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The remaining dates (all Saturdays) on the schedule are June 4, June 18, October 8, October 22, November 5 and November 19.

Flamborough Town Hall Constituent Days: I am still holding Constituent Days at Flamborough Town Hall every second Thursday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. However, don't feel that you have to wait until those days, especially if you have an urgent concern. Meetings can be scheduled with me at Flamborough Town Hall throughout the month by simply phoning the office and scheduling one. If you want to contact me through the week regarding other constituency concerns, I am available at 905-546-2713. I am also available through my City Hall e-mail address which is: mmccarth@hamilton.ca My assistant, Don, is also available at 905-546-3944 or at: dredmond@hamilton.ca. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Margaret McCarthy