

Hamilton Community Foundation

Good evening – my name is Matt Goodman and I am the Vice President of Grants and Community Initiatives of the Hamilton Community Foundation.

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to be here this evening to share in presenting the exciting work being undertaken in some of our most energized neighbourhoods.

I want to begin by acknowledging and thanking those who have made tonight possible.

First, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Mayor and Councillors for your vision in establishing the Neighbourhood Development Strategy office. The Community Foundation is so pleased to be working with Paul and Suzanne towards the mutual goal of strengthening Hamilton's neighbourhoods.

As well, thank you to the City staff working across your organization who have been directly and indirectly involved developing the plans we will be hearing about tonight. I know it is a considerable number ... and I would like to especially thank Alyssa, Anita, and Jocelyn, members of the City's Planning Department who worked alongside local planning teams and community development workers in creating these plans.

I am also pleased to highlight the relationship we have forged with Grace and the Hamilton Best Start Network. As you know, Best Start is a funding partner for community development workers; workers we believe are critical in moving this initiative forward.

And...those workers – members of our Neighbourhood Action Team: Brandon, David, Judy, Julia and Laura – deserve our tremendous thanks. These individuals undertake their work professionally and with an unwavering dedication and commitment to the residents and neighbourhoods they serve.

Each CD worker is hosted by a community organization and we would like to express our appreciation to Affiliated Services for Children and Youth (ASCY), Wesley Urban Ministries, Environment Hamilton and the Social Planning and Research Council for their continued support.

Most importantly, however, on behalf of HCF's Board of Directors and staff, I am proud to acknowledge and thank the many residents (those here tonight and those unable to be here with us...) who have given countless hours to help create and shape the plans being shared with you.

While the plans are the focus tonight, these individuals and families contribute day-in and day-out to a multitude of projects (some large, some small) that make their neighbourhoods safer and healthier places to live, work and play. Residents are the core, the focus and the strength of what any of us hope to achieve in this work.

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Hamiltonians are incredibly generous. It was through this generosity that in 1954 Hamilton Community Foundation was established. And since that time HCF has provided grants to charitable organizations and fostered community leadership by bringing together people, ideas and resources to strengthen our community.

HCF's neighbourhood-focused work began back in 2002 and consisted of a CD worker and a small grants program in four Hamilton neighbourhoods.

In 2007 this program was expanded and became part of the Foundation's Tackling Poverty Together initiative (or TPT) and focused our granting and community leadership activities on poverty as viewed through a neighbourhood-based lens.

Through TPT, the Foundation has helped support 8 hubs in the Jamesville, McQuesten, Riverdale, South Sherman, Quigley Rd, Crown Point, Keith and the Lansdale/Gibson neighbourhoods. Partnership with the City has allowed further expansion into Stinson, Beasley and the Stadium precinct.

From the earliest days of our neighbourhood work, the foundation of our approach has been community development workers. And it remains so today.

The value of having skilled, committed, on-the-ground community development workers, is that they can engage, mobilize and support neighbourhood residents.

Empowered residents will envision and make changes they want to make in their neighbourhoods. And these changes – no matter how complex or long-term – are always more likely to be sustained when they are resident-led and resident-supported.

As our friends and colleagues in McQuesten say, “not about us, without us...”

A snapshot in time shows over 150 residents as active members of neighbourhood planning teams...developing leadership skills that will further enhance our community. And we believe local leadership will be reinforced further through HCF’s investment in the Resident Leadership Institute.

Three reasons we remain committed to the community development approach are:

1. Engaged residents means healthier residents

--- *because of our work together* citizens have received help in meeting their basic needs through food pantries, clothing rooms, emergency transportation funding and access to income assistance and housing workers

2. Identifying and addressing neighbourhood priorities means investments are made in the places and ways that matter most to residents

--- *because of our work together* neighbourhoods look different – this includes using decommissioned schools and churches as community centres; the creation of non-profit housing, new playgrounds, community gardens, and park clean-ups

3. Engaged local leadership means governments, service providers, and funders can be more effective in planning, designing and delivering services

--- The list of new programs and services available at the neighbourhood level is too long to cover here. However *because of our work together* at least 10,000 children and youth have been supported in the academic and recreational programs they wanted, in the neighbourhoods in which they live

In short, we believe community development makes a positive difference to people, to neighbourhoods and to the funders and policy-makers that support them.

To better understand the relationship between CD work and change in neighbourhoods, HCF has engaged Dr Sarah Wakefield. Sarah and her team will evaluate our Team's approach and the work we are undertaking.

We know from our experience that having CD workers is a critical piece of the puzzle. However the data from Sarah's evaluation will provide us with a deeper understanding of the type and scope of the impact of our work. With that information, we will be positioned to better support our workers and have an even greater positive impact in our neighbourhoods.

A lot has been accomplished as you will hear today. It is an exciting time...but there remains a great deal to do. As your partners in this important work, we say thank you...

Beasley Neighbourhood

SLIDE 1 – INTRO

Hello everyone,

My name is Paul Elia, I am a local artist and former resident of the Beasley Neighbourhood. I have been involved with the Beasley Neighbourhood Association for 4 years now, of which I have been the secretary for one year, and the Communications and Membership Coordinator for the past 6 months. I have enjoyed participating in all the great things the BNA does for the community, including BBQ's, movie nights, town hall meetings, neighbourhood garbage pick ups and more!

SLIDE 2 – THE BEASLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Beasley is the award-winning neighbourhood in the heart of the city and consists of the area bounded by Main, James, Wellington and the CN rail tracks. It is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the city, named after Richard Beasley, a soldier, political figure, farmer and businessman in Upper Canada. Richard Beasley was one of Hamilton's first settlers who came to Canada from New York in 1777.

Beasley is one of the most culturally diverse and economically challenged neighbourhoods in the city, and has had, at times, a notorious reputation.

SLIDE 3 – BNA

That being said, Beasley is motivated;

The Beasley Neighbourhood Association was formed 6 years ago by a dedicated group of engaged residents who wanted to work together to empower, celebrate and inspire the community spirit. Each year the membership has grown to become the strong collective it is today.

The Beasley Neighbourhood Association connects residents to city services and their elected officials so that their needs are met. Regular meetings are held twice a month to organize events, share experiences, and keep residents informed about what is going on in their neighbourhood.

The Beasley Neighbourhood Association made history last year by drafting its own Community Charter, the first time a neighbourhood in Canada has ever taken such a step. Compelling the city services, police, school boards, faith organizations and local businesses to sign a public agreement to work together to tackle the neighbourhood's issues.

SLIDE 4 – BEASLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARTER

The Beasley Neighbourhood Plan has been organized through the direction of the Beasley Neighbourhood Charter. The purpose of the Charter is to improve the quality of life for people who live, work and play in the Beasley Neighbourhood. The mission is to promote the social, economic, and cultural renewal of the Beasley community.

The overall approach that was used to gather information to articulate the Beasley Neighbourhood Plan was one of engagement. The process was designed to seek ways that the broader community could be involved in supporting and engaging in future development.

The Charter has no legal authority but it formalizes community alliances into a brain trust, which takes on improvements in housing, education, public perception, urban design and crime, to name a few.

SLIDE 5 – CHARTER DELIVERABLES

There are 3 major Deliverables that come out of the Charter. They are:

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- 1. The Annual Beasley Fair, held in the Dr. Davey Gym, this event gives the residents an opportunity to come and find out what's going on in their neighbourhood! And to connect with all city services, places of worship, organizations and local business that serve the Beasley Community.
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- 2. The Beasley Neighbourhood Plan which sets out GOALS and OBJECTIVES, and identifies ACTIONS to achieve them.
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- 3. The results from our quality of life survey, which are conducted throughout the year, provide the input needed for the Neighbourhood Plan. This allows for continuous growth and improvement. Thus as the neighbourhood changes so does our plan. The surveys allow us a way to measure how well we're doing.
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SLIDE 6 – QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Here are some of the most popular comments and concerns that have come out of the survey results.

Strengths – the people, social and community events, and the skateboard park

Challenges – Drugs, Crime, and Traffic/Street safety

Some Suggestions given were to Clean up, have more police patrols and make improvements to the parks

SLIDE 7 – FINISHED ACTIONS

The McLaren Park Mural was designed and painted by local artist Bryce Huffman. It combines graffiti and a comic book aesthetic to bring to life the neighbourhood's architecture, skate culture and most importantly, our mascot, the Beasley Badger. He is a symbol of the tenacity and courage of the residents of the Beasley Neighbourhood. The “Do-it-yourself” attitude is part of what has allowed the Beasley Neighbourhood Association to provide a strong, independent and empowered voice for it's residents.

This mural relied heavily on consultation with the community to ensure the neighbourhood got the image it wanted.

The neighbourhood wanted the mural to be something that people could fall into, or stop you on the street. We wanted the image to be tough and scrappy; because that's how the neighbourhood sees itself. And as evidenced in our quality of life survey, 65% of residents strongly agree that they feel proud to live in Beasley!

SLIDE 8 – FINISHED ACTION

The Hamilton Victory Gardens, run by Bill Wilcox is one of our Charter partners, and they have successfully installed 2 victory gardens which supply food networks in the Beasley community.

The GOOD SHEPHERD SITE on Catherine St, the original 2011 site with 36 raised beds is benefitting from a donated IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

The CANCORD SITE at Mary and Barton St, behind Food Basics Plaza. The... largest site with 81 raised beds started in April of this year with great neighbourhood involvement and interest!!

SLIDE 9 – FINISHED ACTION

Beasley Arize was possible thanks to the True sport grant in cooperation with the Hamilton Skateboard Assembly's 20th anniversary sk8jam. The emphasis was on working with our charter partners- Hamilton Skateboard Assembly, Wesley Urban Ministries, The Boys and Girls Club and YOWH to create an event to celebrate and support the HSA and their achievements!

SLIDE 10 – ONGOING ACTION

The BNA hosts the annual Summer BBQ and Winter Carnival in Beasley Park since 2006. Thanks to the help of our Charter partners such as The Good Shepherd, Boys and Girls Club, the Downtown Mosque, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton

Recreation Dept and the Hamilton Police Services the BNA is able to put on full scale carnival events in the park full of food, fun and games for all ages!

SLIDE 11 – ONGOING ACTION

The Tivoli Theatre Street Art Project is a partnership with the BNA, Police Officer Steve Welton and the owners of the Tivoli Theatre, the Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble. We have teamed up together to provide a legal space for street artists in our city!

With the growing artist community in Hamilton, the group felt it would be extremely beneficial to allow a legal way for creative youth to express their talents and use graffiti for good. This is an ongoing project where painting with permission is done during monthly events. We are currently planning for Round 5 in October.

SLIDE 12 – IN-PROGRESS ACTION

The Beasley Banners have been designed to enhance a sense of place by branding the neighbourhood, creating positive associations with the name Beasley. They say welcome to The Beasley Neighbourhood, a place where you can be your best!

These banners will be installed in 2013 along Cannon, Wellington, Wilson and John Streets. The first banner says Beasley, and the following 4 banners use a play on the word such as Be-lieve, Be-Proud, Be-Strong, Be-Creative, Beasley.

SLIDE 13 – FUTURE ACTIONS

There are many future actions listed in the plan, Some priorities include:

Re-developing Beasley Park and McLaren Park improvements – Beasley Park has become a community hot spot and needs to be redesigned in a way that fits what the community needs. McLaren Park is a heavily used small urban park that is in need of many improvements.

Re-design Cannon Street to be more neighbourhood friendly. As it is now, Cannon street feels like a highway that cuts through the neighbourhood. It is dangerous and unpleasant to be on.

Address Garbage and Dumping Issues – Low neighbourhood satisfaction is often caused by signs of disorder such as garbage and dumping. Garbage and dumping consistently rank the highest in all types of by-law complaints made in Hamilton.

Alleyway Project – Develop creative uses for unused and neglected alleyways in Beasley.

Recreational Groups to promote active living – by developing organized sports teams, connecting people with what is already out there, and identifying barriers that may exist.

SLIDE 13 – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Beasley Neighbourhood Plan is about empowering residents and building equality. Turning the diversity of the Beasley Neighbourhood into an agent of power! Building capacity for residents to have a sense of ownership and be community leaders.

I would like to thank all the dedicated Beasley friends and residents who have put in their hard work and dedication towards helping us make Beasley a place where you can be your best!

SLIDE 14 – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would also like to thank all of our Charter partners for their hard work, participation and assistance in giving action to the Beasley Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you!

Keith Neighbourhood

Code Red to Code Success.

(wearing '48 garb)

Good Evening, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, City Staff and Galleries.

With today being August 18, 1948 we rolled the first Studebaker off the line at the Hamilton plant. She was a beauty. A bright blue, four door, champion sedan. Studebaker set up shop in the old Anti-Aircraft Gun factory on Victoria. Things really look swell for my Keith Community for a long time coming.

The industry at the Studebaker plant is only a part of the jobs available in my great community and me and my neighbours, well we live right in the heart of it. We can walk to work. Now that's what I call livin'. Got a bunch of grocers nearby. A barber, an ice cream shop, a shoe repair, everything you could need, really. Our kids all play stickball in either of the local schoolyards or ride their bikes in the streets, while the wives all get together to gab. A real sense of family and community. The neighbourhood is really the Cat's Meow. Makes a guy proud.

The neighbourhood stretches from Otis elevator and Studebaker on Victoria, to Burlington Steel, that will later become Slater steel, and Cosmos-Imperial Textiles on Sherman. From Canadian Westinghouse and American Can, by the Canadian National tracks, to International Harvester and Stelco down by the bay.

(Take off hat)

Unfortunately, I know that within 65 years, the community that I love will be in real dutch.

Westinghouse, Otis Elevator and American Can will have all taken a powder. Imperial Textiles and International Harvester will be gone too. Stelco will go belly up, Slater Steel will be a shadow of its former self and even the Studebaker will be no more.

The schools will be gone and so will the grocers, barber and shoe repair.

My kids and Grandkids are gonna be in a real pickle. People are going to talk about my community using words like Rust-belt, inner city and Poverty and the whole sense of family and community will be gone as my neighbours start to buy into all that bunk.

Ok, yeah, 7 outa 10 of my kids and grandkids won't have, any more than a high school education. It was good enough for me with all the work in my neighbourhood, but it won't be good enough for them when all the good paying manufacturing jobs leave.

And, sure, my kids are going to have to get by on less money than folks say that they need, to the tune of 4 out of 10 and that number will grow to 7 out of 10 of my grandkids.

7 out of 10 of my kids and grandkids are gonna own their own place and they'll be in it for the long-haul with the lowest cut of new people moving into my community. A third of them that own their own place, and two thirds of the ones renting, are gonna have to spend more than a third of what they make to live there. That's too much money.

It's gonna be bad, but that won't be all that they are.

There'll be a bunch of them that will work to fix the problem. They'll get up off the mat time and time again. They'll bring in the troops when they need to and they'll try to set things right.

I sure hope that they can put the kibosh on the whole mess and bring back the community that I love.

(Take off shirt)

So here's how we are going to do it.

We're going to enhance the Pride and Beauty of the neighbourhood through efforts surrounding our homes, commercial properties and common areas. We'll help each other to achieve this and make the community a place to envy and to enjoy.

We'll work to help find that extra money that we all could use to undo the damages of time to our homes. If a home owner needs a hand with a project we'll know, who has the capabilities to help them out.

We'll improve and enhance our green spaces to nurture our people, pets and produce. By enhancing and expanding North Central Park we'll develop a keystone location in the heart of the neighbourhood. Using a park system including an enhanced Birch Avenue Dog Park will help insure that People parks remain for people and the dogs have a place to be with dogs. We'll build community gardens throughout the neighbourhood to increase the likelihood of the proper nutrition of our parents and kids. We'll even work to develop a community orchard. All of these green space enhancements will become focal points for camaraderie, gathering and pride.

Throughout it all we'll work to educate people on By-Law enforcement, truck routes and social responsibility. We don't want to push anyone away from the neighbourhood, we just need to make sure that things are done correctly and for the good of all.

We'll make the community the epitome of the City of Hamilton's vision of being "the best place in Canada to raise a child" and promote it as being such.

We're going to increase the neighbourhood's health, safety and security through efforts surrounding our people, places and things.

We'll look after each other and insure we are safe through enhanced recreational activities, for all, using the resource at our disposal as well as future partnerships with new allies. We'll make sure our homes are safe through education and installation of smoke detectors in all homes in the community and we'll look to control and calm the traffic in and through our neighbourhood to make our streets safe for everyone.

Changing the perception of the community is important. Taking away the dark and potentially unsafe places and replacing them with bright, well kept, enjoyable properties using light and safety audits and neighbourhood beautification awards initiatives.

We'll work to eliminate the Brownfields through the promotion of remediation and adaptive reuse of our industrial properties. We'll market the community as a place full of strong investment opportunities utilizing programs offer by all levels of government we will develop a local, one stop shop directory for potential investors to find all of the processes needed to make the Keith Community their new home.

We will embody, further, the City vision of being "the best place to raise a child, promote innovation and engage citizens".

We will strengthen the Educational, Business and economic opportunities in the community using a several layer approach to build a strong foundation to move forward.

Through partnerships with the Hamilton Boards of Education and Pathways to education to coordinate and optimize programs available for our children and youth. We will gather and develop a database of programs and services available to make sure that every possibility is made available to insure the success of our students.

With the assistance of partners with expertise in the field we will provide job and career readiness programs to adapt ourselves beyond the thinking of old to the requirements needed to meet the future.

Improved communications between the community and local businesses, both old and new, will be used to encourage businesses to advertise and hire locally using regular neighbourhood job fairs and any other means at our disposal.

These increased relationships with local businesses, as well as partnerships with Hamilton's economic development, will be used to further promote the Keith community to attract new business and commercial investment, building upon the proximity to the transportation by vessel, rail and road.

The Keith Community will fully personify the City's vision of being "the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities".

Throughout it all we will promote Community interaction and partnerships to strengthen and maintain those assets currently held dear in the community. With those partnerships through the years and through the neighbourhood we have been able to develop the vision that Keith neighbours care about the people who live, work and play in the Keith neighbourhood. Keith neighbours are involved and engaged in creating a safe, clean and friendly community.

I hope that you'll share our vision that we have created an unstoppable freight train from the past to the present and then on into the future that mirrors those freight trains that have travelled through and around the Keith community forever.

Some of these actions are well underway, while others still require substantial heavy lifting.

We will undo the damages of time done to our once great community and with your support we can go from the little engine that could to the power of the mighty trans-continental diesel locomotives to power our freight train into the future.

Quite frankly, (*point to hat*) my Grampa and I are counting on it.

McQuesten Neighbourhood

Good evening! I am a McQuesten neighbour and I am here to tell you about our unique neighbourhood. We are nestled between the Red Hill Valley and Parkdale Ave, from Queenston Road to just north of Barton Street. It is a remarkably diverse neighbourhood. We have long-term home owners, new Canadians and refugees, aboriginal peoples, City Housing Hamilton tenants, and apartment dwellers. Our community population ranges in age from infants to the elderly and we are ethnically, racially, religiously and financially diverse.

Our neighbourhood has long been identified as one of the areas with many challenges; however, over the past 10 years we have been building on our strengths and relationships. We have been greatly privileged to have the Hamilton Community Foundation invest their support in McQuesten through David Derbyshire and funding grants and we thank them for their encouragement and support. We also have had great support from Councillor Sam Merulla both monetarily and through his advocacy on our behalf.

Over the course of these ten years we have had a tendency to respond to issues identified by small segments of our community as they happened. As we grew from Martha Movers and Ori-Mar-Rox to a Community Planning Team we recognized that we were being reactive as opposed to taking a proactive approach. Both Martha Movers and Ori-Mar-Rox were groups formed by neighbours to address needs in their respective areas. They identified concerns they had for challenges in their neighbourhood and worked to resolve issues. Martha Movers, for instance, started a Block Party where neighbours could come together, meet one another and get to know each other thus reducing crime. As the Planning Team evolved and many service providers and agencies came on board the need to look beyond the immediate challenges became apparent. Taking the time to consult with the community as a whole and identifying the priorities of a broader cross section of our community allowed us to

focus on innovative strategies to address a comprehensive array of issues throughout the neighbourhood and not focus just on concerns of a small group. We would like to thank the City of Hamilton for their support in this planning process. The planning process has brought an awareness amongst those neighbours who participated that their voice could be heard and that change could happen.

As the plan took shape new partners emerged to help us meet the goals of this plan. This plan will provide us with a road map that shows us where we are; where we are going and how we will get there. It is also a vehicle for allowing the City of Hamilton to begin to lend more of their assets to our community and assist us to further our Mission, Values and Vision. Our Vision is: *"We, the residents of McQuesten, are proud of and engaged in our community. We believe in the assets and strengths of the people who live, work and play in our neighbourhood. Through building strong relationships, we work together to ensure our neighbourhood remains a safe and healthy place where everybody has equal access to supports, employment, food and the opportunities that improve our quality of life."*

As we begin this journey of turning our vision into a reality we see neighbours answering our call and rolling up their sleeves to help fulfill this dream.

What will McQuesten look like in five years? This journey is a process and we are inviting our neighbours and the City to walk that journey with us. We see a vibrant neighbourhood where there is an increase in committed involvement by neighbours partnering with service providers, businesses, agencies and the City. Our communication lines will be stronger with readily accessible information for our community so they will better know where and how they can get involved.

We envision a partnering with local businesses who will be hiring from our community. Our Job Centre will be humming with employment opportunities and skill development training where businesses know they will have a pool of dedicated workers. We will witness a mentoring of local businesses with new entrepreneurs assisting them to grow and develop into viable, strong new businesses. We will have a data bank of local businesses that are committed to economic development and sustainable growth in our area.

During this five year journey we catch a glimpse of food security becoming a sustainable part of our neighbourhood. We see the Community Garden expanding and urban agriculture becoming a fact of life where we will be able to supply ourselves with fresh produce year round. The food security journey will be challenging and rewarding. We see community kitchens training neighbours how to cook economically, preserve their produce and learn how to use new and diverse foods. During this process, people will get to know each other and their neighbourhood better. We are looking towards a food centre that is within local walking distance for all of us. This may be a farmer's market, a food co-op, a food pantry or a combination of various elements. An integrated food services system is key to the health and well-being of all our neighbours.

The health and well-being of our neighbourhood is instrumental to our plan. We see partnering with various agencies to assist in providing many physical activities, not just for our children and youth, but for adults as well as our seniors. We are greatly blessed to have the Red Hill Trail pass alongside our neighbourhood. We appreciate this natural wonder on our doorstep and look towards establishing activities that enhance our enjoyment of this space. The process of developing a new routine of families being physically active together, with opportunities for all age groups, and respectful of cultural values and traditions, including tennis and squash courts, cricket pitches, baseball and

soccer leagues, running and walking groups, etc. is fundamental in the well-being of all our community.

Part of our journey is to support families and individuals through the maze of services available, including finding clothing, transportation, health care, literacy and education, affordable housing and employment. We see a greater role for East Kiwanis and Wesley Neighbourhood Community Centres in our neighbourhood. They provide much needed space and programming for our residents. We look to partner with our local schools which are instrumental in building a foundation for our children and youth as they take on leadership roles in the realization of this vision.

All of us have a role to play to make our neighbourhood a great place to live, work and play. It is "*not about us, without us*"! At the moment the McQuesten train is ready to embark on this journey. Are you ready to come on board? Are you Ready? All Aboard!

Thank you.