

July 30, 2014

Mr. Mayor, Council, and members of Planning Committee:

I am writing to state my support for the new *Draft Woodland Conservation bylaw* and via this letter I am asking that you too show your support by voting in favour of this document in order to pass and make this bylaw official.

I live in a neighbourhood of the Hamilton mountain that has unfortunately seen one of the largest uninterrupted forests inside the urban area be reduced to a fraction of the size that it once was within these past 2 years. After contacting City Bylaw enforcement officials I was informed that there was very little that could be done to save these few remaining islands of nature, as existing bylaws were lacking in many ways, so much so that their hands were tied unless a clear violation was witnessed.

As a result myself and my neighbours watched trees with trunk diameters close to 4ft diameters fall to the ground. It was hard to imagine that these trees withstood well over 100-150+ years of whatever nature could throw at them, only to fall in a matter of minutes to a chainsaw or being pushed over and ripped out by the roots by large machinery. These trees used to appear so tall in our local neighbourhood forest, however it wasn't until they were laying horizontal on the former forest floor that you could really appreciate how mammoth these giants really were. Perhaps the worst part was watching the machines go through the area after removing the larger harvested trees and needlessly buzzing almost all remaining saplings, bushes, and even some smaller trees upward of several inches in diameter. The end result was shredded mulch as far as the eye could see.

Imagine for a second what it is like to see Wild Turkeys, or hear the howls of Coyotes in your very own backyard like I have right here in urban Hamilton, and then imagine for a second having this opportunity taken away from us all-together.... forever!

I am asking you to avoid further delay and to vote in favour of this bylaw in order to protect what remains of our current urban forests so that the citizens of Hamilton, and their future generations can proudly say that they live in one of the Greatest and Greenest Cities in not only Canada but all of the world.

Thank you,  
Mark Mitchell  
Hamilton, ON