

HAMILTON ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

2014

Planning for Hamilton's Future Together



Meeting Data and Notes



Hamilton

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1. Steering Committee and Meeting Attendees

The Environment Summit was organized by Heather Donison and Jay Carter at the City of Hamilton, as well as a Steering Committee with representatives from the following organizations:

Mohawk College
HIEA
McMaster University
Environment Hamilton
Sustainable Hamilton
Hamilton Conservation authority

Eco Net
Green Venture
Sustainability Professionals Network
City of Hamilton
Lura Consulting

Approximately 120 participants from the environmental, economic, social and cultural sectors gathered at Mohawk College for the City of Hamilton's second Environmental Summit. The following list provides an overview of some of the organizations that attended.

Arcelormittal Dofasco
Bay Area Restoration Council
City of Hamilton
Columbian Chemicals Canada Ltd./Birla Carbon
Commercial media lighting technician
Dave Heidebrecht Project Solutions
Dundas in Transition
ECO5 Inc.
Elite SP
Environment Hamilton
Green Venture
Hamilton Arts Council
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
Hamilton Naturalists' Club
Hamilton Port Authority

Hamilton Public Health
HHRAP
Horizon Utilities
Hurley Natural Resources
Lura Consulting
McMaster University
Meshwear Technologies Inc
Mohawk College
Retiree
Social Planning and Research Council
Spectergy
Sustainable Hamilton
Toronto Terminals Railway
U. S. Steel Canada
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo

2. Workshop Results

Summit participants were asked to participate in three separate workshops to take a critical look at:

- Opportunities for Local Resilience
- Celebrating Our City Of Hamilton
- The Next Community Vision

The results of this exercise are presented in the sections, below.

Opportunities for Local Resilience

The focus areas from the morning sessions were posted on boards around the room and participants were asked to focus on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges.

- Urban Natural Areas and Parklands
- Local Food and Agriculture
- Consumption
- Brownfields
- Complete Streets and Communities
- Climate Change
- What Else

Urban Natural Areas and Parklands

Strengths:

- Hamilton's waterfront areas and Bayfront Park
- Falls throughout the City, East & West
- Multiple landowners with common mission (preservation and protection of natural areas) E.g. City Parks, Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), Conservation Halton, Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), Grand River Conservation Authority
- Conservation areas/owned lands
- Great trail access to parks currently
- Strong local institutions: RBG, University, Colleges
- Large green spaces in city
- Many Neighbourhood Action Plans identify neighbourhood parks as key to neighbourhood revitalization --> Grassroots
- Fabulous walking and biking trails
- Biodiversity & Species richness (over 2000 species in Hamilton's natural areas)
- Cootes Paradise eagles are back! Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark
- Nature is the source material for all living systems and a model for regenerative system appreciation and design
- Bruce Trail conservation areas; Dundas & Red Hill Valley
- Network of trails for walking and biking through and around the City and linked to trails in neighbouring communities
- Such a green city (the canopy)

Weaknesses:

- City needs to uphold its own policies (e.g. restricted use policies in Environmentally Sensitive Areas!!!)
- No/little inventory or not accessible/outdated data re: urban forests
- \$\$\$
- Urban sprawl still continuing

Meeting Data and Notes

- Urban parks have no naturalization plans
- Mish mash of urban forest protection by-laws across City and no urban woodland bylaw
- Too much pavement
- Need a strong urban tree/urban forest by-law. We're losing our urban forests
- Lack of collective support for an all-inclusive natural heritage plan
- Street medians. Using annuals, overwatered, no cut outs for water. Replace with native perennials, water less often
- Paid parking is a barrier to increased usage. Benefits of parks pay for themselves
- Little marketing of natural assets (waterfalls, trails, etc.) outside of word-of-mouth in a region of 5 million. Missing out of ecotourism \$
- Silo natural space/heritage management. Natural Heritage Strategy, Planning, Forestry, etc.
- Aren't enough
- Failure to recognize them all to then enjoy them

Opportunities:

- Enforce better practices for new subdivision builds. Rain gardens. Rain barrels
- Urban forest strategic planning! (Second this!)
- Broader view of wellness and health --> not just \$ or economic
- Hamilton has some strong institutions involved in green spaces (RBG, University, College, and City). Can we get others involved in greenspace? How does Hamilton Health Sciences fit in?
- Increased population density in City and set firm boundary to new development into rural land
- Convert parking lots into green space. Less parking availability creates more transit demand. Improved quality of life
- Parking lots. Use permeable pavement strategies. Bioswales
- Unique biome/climate in Canada
- Design City to be accessible by walking. Improve health by exercise and reduced carbon dioxide
- Green roofs can create elevated eco-corridors for birds and insects throughout the city
- Limit urban sprawl and force re-use of existing buildings
- Large amount of recently purchased (by city) school board land
- Re-naturalization of portions of urban greenspace (meadows, pollinator patches, native trees)
- Implement the natural heritage system. Plant more trees.
- Rooftop gardens/green roof
- Trail development
- More protection for the escarpment and areas adjoining it
- Cootes to Escarpment Eco Park System
- Active transportation network. Improve off-road/on-road infrastructure
- Use public transit (or independent business/Social innovation partnerships] to link park, green systems, and residential neighbourhoods. Market. Celebrate. Mix up access with rural-residential-urban opportunities.
- U.S. Steel pulls out? Lots of potential for regrowth
- Opportunities to refocus development on existing buildings in the core and reducing the urbanization of farmland

Challenges

- Ensure park land is part of the community plan
- Not recognizing the importance of grassland and thickets as alternative urban natural areas in plantings. Not everything needs trees

Meeting Data and Notes

- Loss of connection to nature
- Invasive insects, plants. Less native species especially endangered. Reduce resilience and decrease biodiversity.
- Balance financial benefits (development fees) with need to maintain tree canopy and sustain older trees (do not allow cutting of trees in new development if can keep or build around)
- Effective management of greenspace; increased human traffic on trails, natural areas needs to be balanced with ecosystem needs
- Realize built components as part of natural ecology
- UNESCO Biosphere reserve is walking distance from some of the most concentrated heavy industry in North America. Can we become leaders in managing this tension?
- Managing overpopulated invasive species
- Developer pressures to build (at profit)
- Political will or community support to naturalize park land or open spaces in urbanized areas
- Parking - or easier access by bikes so you don't have to drive there
- People think they need a lot of space to live
- Urban sprawl
- Increasing population
- Stack functions (multiple uses - both human and ecosystem) to deliberately design more frequent 'encounters' between residents and the living aspects of greenspace

Climate Change

Strengths:

- Perhaps one day I'll be able to grow crops now grown in Jamaica. Lots of fruit
- Blunt. Science based
- 20% reduction already before 2020. Now 80% by 2050
- Hamilton climate change map. Take a photo
- Local data
- Hamilton's climate change action charter
- National and international recognition
- Research and knowledge. E.g. Conservation Authority
- Greater scientific proof of climate change that will hopefully decrease the # of non-believers
- Mohawk college's green initiatives
- Great Lakes water levels can be managed better than oceans - we are a 'coastal city' that has no coast

Weaknesses:

- Motivation to take action
- Too many roads. Not enough buses
- With urban sprawl continuing especially on the mountain, climate change will likely continue to be a problem
- Transit should be a priority. Not an issue on Local Area Rating
- Being under the assumption we understand all that's going on
- Public needs to know how it will personally affect them. Need to share consequences on an individual level
- Industry = largest contributor - how do we address their contributions?
- Focusing only on industry and not transportation and truck traffic
- Super schools will force more car and bus travel and raise carbon dioxide

Meeting Data and Notes

- Can be a complex issue to understand
- Need a comprehensive assessment of climate change/extreme weather risk for the whole city
- Lack of community buy-in and understanding of need to act
- Insufficient leadership and prioritization from community leaders in business and politics
- Disbeliefs of stakeholders

Opportunities:

- Energy conservation considerations for all new construction. City and school owned buildings should be built to 'passive house' standard. i.e. beyond building code
- Investing in and implementing conservation measures as well as renewal energy solution as a city
- EDUCATION! Opportunity through community groups/knowledgeable citizens to education people of all ages. Education will promote behaviour change
- Opportunity to guard well the opportunity that changing industry is giving. We are achieving cleaner air and water, be careful who, what we allow to build/invest in our neighbourhoods
- Reduce 'need' for consumption. Esp. transportation
- Electric vehicles. CarShare. Buses. LRT. Reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transportation.
- Private vehicles and trucks. Should pay for distance travelled. Within city. Toll/tax to pay for transit and complete streets
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change can drive innovation: new technologies new behaviours, cost reduction
- Extreme weather change. Hamilton planners can visit other places to avoid re-inventing the wheel and find a logical starting point. Example = for decades Arizona has been developing infrastructure, community planning, emergency services, etc. to deal with extreme draught and extreme flooding
- Continue to promote/improve local data supporting climate change trends
- More compact employment lands development within urban boundary, on brownfields, higher density
- Geoengineering is looking promising (to reduce effects, not to reduce carbon dioxide)
- Promote pedestrian/cyclist lifestyles and reduce dependency on cars
- Promote solar, wind, and geothermal
- Fossil fuel divestment!
- New technology to help cope with changed conditions
- Transit improvements/active transportation improvements
- Infrastructure improvements
- More solar/wind power so I can produce my own electricity/heat/etc. I don't want to feed into the grid
- Make a green infrastructure policy
- Focus on resilient infrastructure and development

Challenges:

- Stranded assets
- Understanding all energy inputs effecting globe's weather, not just pollution sources
- Climate change is a global issue. How do we synthesize and collaborate amongst all levels of government (city, province, national, international) effectively?
- Public apathy because the effects of climate change aren't immediately visible
- Changing water levels in Great Lakes
- How and where to invest when the outcomes of climate change are unpredictable
- Keeping manufacturing economy with increased pressure on emissions
- Global problem. How to get every country to play its part without making a country uncompetitive

Meeting Data and Notes

- Who will be asked to sacrifice?
- Public engagement: communication of the science. How/why it involves them. Opportunities for mitigation/adaptation in own life. How to market message - economy, environment, health, etc.
- Increasing awareness of urgency of situation
- Tar sands cancel all good efforts
- Carbon not only factor in climate disruption
- Increasing support for de-paving (e.g. parking lots, school yards) to decrease heat island effect and plant more trees to decrease exposure to UV rays
- Involvement of different communities and age groups
- Better models to evaluating climate related risk and impacts
- Even the Conservation Authority cuts climate change program budgets 1st. Easy to put off the work needed

Complete Streets & Communities

Strengths:

- Some of our major streets are wide...so we have the room to make them complete
- Excess road space to convert
- Increased awareness of the benefits and desire for change
- Available R.O.W.
- Cannon Street bike land (yes!!)
- Bikeshare system with appropriate density
- Queensdale bike lanes added with recent road reconstruction
- Builds a city of communities
- Car share programs and sustainable transportation
- Walkable engaged streets (Locke St. S)
- Continue mixed-use zoning and experiment beyond 1950's and status quo zoning expectations. Do so in diverse neighbourhoods - not just downtown
- Bus only lane
- Increased community engagement (i.e. local shopping, active travel, meeting neighbours)

Weaknesses:

- Transit AREA RATING (Yes!!)
- Safe bike routes for industrial area
- Lack of bike racks
- Timing/frequency of HSR to industrial areas
- Super schools force kids to take the bus - instead of walking to a neighbourhood school - contributing to obesity!
- Better North/South traffic flow - don't only focus on east/west for Light Rail Transit (LRT)
- Cyclists forced to share roadway with high speed vehicles
- No safe way to move East-West over Red Hill Valley b/c of expressway ramps
- Access to conveniences
- Area rating
- Longwood-403 Bridge dangerous to cyclists and pedestrians (and very unpleasant)
- Higher upfront cost, which is a weakness only due to old \$ thinking --> focus on ROI of healthy communities, economic development, etc.
- Lack of HSR real-time data (Yes!)

Meeting Data and Notes

- Lots of high-speed one-way arterial roads
- Transit outside downtown core (Stoney Creek, Ancaster, Dundas) is severely lacking
- Transport focus (vs local economic context)
- Lack of significant sizeable greenspaces in urban areas, particularly lower socio-economic areas of City
- School board totally out of touch with principles of good urban planning!
- Where are the 'CARS' on Car Share???
- Lack of understanding by council related to the concept of 'Complete Streets'

Opportunities:

- More sage bike lanes North/South so that bikes can be used to travel to industrial areas
- Adjacent land uses - mixed use
- Active transportation = healthier Hamiltonians
- Take Cannon St. Bike lanes connect to East End
- Right size streets
- More pedestrian only streets downtown
- Expand the bikeshare system with more bikes, hubs, and in more areas of the city
- Some councillors are identifying walk & bike to school issues/barriers
- Incorporate (SWM) stormwater management into complete street design
- Create destinations
- LRT Transit system
- Incline railway up escarpment
- Bike lanes/pedestrian paths separated from traffic
- Add more bike lanes. Lower the cost of bus fares
- ALLEYS! Bike and pedestrian friendly. Not busy like roads are. Not beside cars therefore breathing cleaner air
- Transit should all be electric powered. Sustainable. Transit should have priority and come first
- Advancements in support for cycling infrastructure. I.e. Cannon St.
- Review local by-laws to permit easier private enterprises i.e. B&B, coffee shops, convenience stores, hair shops, etc.
- Beside every escarpment stairway, build a track (assisted track) to push your bike up the mountain
- Include the suburbs. Lots of crappy cookie cutter development out there that are very car driven (no pun intended)
- Pedestrian right-of-way
- Extend cannon street bike lane
- Develops interrelating community
- Use taxis to create local transport schedule w/ ability to pick up other's going the same way
- Complete streets should be first. Rymal road example - not a complete street yet there is a complete community wanting a complete street
- Investing in culture - local celebrations, music, food, events. Creates a complete community.
- Potential to retain some one-way streets along with bike ways and pedestrian ways
- Make HSR service such that people would prefer to take the bus
- Bike boxes at intersections - need to be highly visible
- Complete NODES (as compliment to complete streets). (..makes street use an act of adding value/production)

Challenges:

- Support from City Council

Meeting Data and Notes

- Too much us vs them (urban vs rural vs suburban; Councillor versus Councillor; traffic vs HSR)
- Board of education has too much power & not enough info to make wise and healthy decisions. SILQ
- OMB Authority
- Nobody wants to pay for the basic infrastructure
- Making sure that there are things worth walking or biking to (stores, food, events)
- Decisions by School Board (r/t funding from province) leads to school closures and construction of 'super schools' that encourage driving and busing vs kids walking and cycling to school in their neighbourhood
- Political support
- Seniors method of transportation so not stuck in homes
- Accounting for changing demographics
- Hamilton should act first on new transportation trends
- Re-converting one ways to two-way streets
- Getting Hamiltonians out of their cars
- Defining concepts complete streets can help achieve complete communities. Mixed-use, compact design is also needed for complete communities (broader concept than complete streets)
- Lack of understanding of health impacts of over-automobile use and car dependency
- Plan for connectivity that benefit BOTH children/families AND biodiversity
- Knowledge translation will be important to engage all stakeholders
- Can be scary for inexperienced cyclists. Don't know the rules of the road and how they apply to bikes
- Poor (slow) local transit connection between mountain and downtown areas

Consumption

Strengths:

- New company annual reporting methods such as GRI which make consumption figures public
- Numerous local environmental groups/activists
- There is LOTS to do (that doesn't require buying things)
- Better living frugally!

Weaknesses:

- Consumption dependent economy
- Over consumption * don't compromise future generations
- Too much profit driven. Conservation should not lead to higher costs
- Failure to enforce all packaging to be 100% recyclable
- I am not validated if I don't consume
- GDP growth as a measure of success. We need new measures for prosperity without growth/sustainable prosperity
- Community engagement/education
- Focus on new technologies (cell phones, gadgets, etc.)

Opportunities:

- Perhaps measuring success with health/well-being and/or happiness
- Need to look harder for existing technologies and develop new ones at our local universities and colleges that help to reduce consumption of energy
- Encourage micro community. Live/work/play. All with walkability, transit.
- The cheaper option

Meeting Data and Notes

- Disposable culture promote reduce and reuse more
- Relatively affluent people can choose to consume more thoughtfully (i.e. buying decisions based on many factors, not just price)
- Use new measures of community wellbeing to set priorities. 'Canadian index of wellbeing'
- Read Richard Gilbert Sustainable Transportation. Implement his ideas/pilot ideas/through educational institutions
- Affluent society has more disposable income --> more opportunity to consume. Need to encourage sharing and giving
- Laws on waste disposal should be more strict (many people still do not recycle and/or compost)
- More school (public) uniforms to get rid of competitive need for fashion statements
- Ban the sale of bottled water at McMaster, elementary schools
- Recent growth of sharing economy (media coverage)
- Businesses innovating new product ideas - especially regarding regenerative design
- More people are trying to live more 'meaningful' lives (i.e. voluntary simplicity, etc.)
- Balance of modes of travel i.e. walking, biking, transit, car
- Start to measure community/economic success using 'Canadian Index of Wellbeing' * genuine progress
- Enforce all new packaging materials to be 100% post-consumer recycled
- We should begin to discuss an economy not based on continued growth
- Bi-weekly or less garbage collection

Challenges:

- Value all forms of capital: social, financial, spiritual, experiential, material, living, cultural, intellection then network these into 'complete economies' --> slow: localized economy. Sink: invest in regeneration and health. Spread: over time and place. As with water and fertility
- Supply disruption
- Addiction
- Consumption is growth, growth is good
- Current value systems don't support reduced consumption patterns. Need to inform and shift culture.
- "Stuff" (i.e. Cell phones, laptops, etc.) isn't built to last. Pressure to have the latest and greatest technology
- Getting consumers to look for quality and fair production/trade practices when they buy goods instead of just looking for lowest cost
- The attraction of an energy-intensive lifestyle lies in the emotional rush associated with images, themselves key to selling products! My friend found out that working for a crisis helpline
- Design systems to share excess with others so it does not turn into waste
- Too much pressure for organizations to continuously grow! Need to change mindset
- Peak oil
- lack of understanding re: where the boundaries of this topic lay - lots of overlap with other environmental topics
- Encouraging business development in its current form is at odds with decreasing consumption. Need to decouple economic/business productivity from traditional consumption
- Getting people to care or motivating them to reduce their individual footprint
- Re-tooling our throw-away society (built in obsolescence, etc.)
- Getting people to slow down in general. Walk/bike transit to work (takes a bit longer). Walk/bike to school. Walking for errands.
- Convincing people to stop buying
- Convincing or persuading citizens to be less reliant on automobile

Meeting Data and Notes

- Passing down/sharing of children's clothes and toys is seen as a 'secret' because you don't want to be seen as poor and needing handouts. But reusing at its best, but hard to initiate with some new parents

Brownfields

Strengths:

- McMaster Innovation Park - great success
- ERASE program & Horizon Utilities incentives
- Lister Block
- Valuable (economically and socially) built heritage (buildings and infrastructure)
- Incentive programs and success stories
- Proximity to existing infrastructure (utilities and road/rail/port/air transport)
- Have lots of properties with huge opportunity
- Council listens
- Repurposing of land/space
- Hundreds of acres available
- Brownfields - convert some to green space along Bay Shore. Don't allow/add new polluted areas that will become future 'brownfields'

Weaknesses:

- Sales job. No vision
- City politicians being shortsighted in giving emphasis to Greenfield development - presumably because it is less costly
- Too much profit driven
- Getting owners of un-used land to co-operate in the interest of the people
- Economic Development is in charge
- So many! Lots to work on
- Fill brownfields first; greenfields second
- Provincial rules better - but still risky for someone to re-develop a brownfield in Ontario
- Need to do a better job of identifying all brownfields (define properly)
- Are the incentives enough??? Are they -> in uptake? Is change happening at scale?
- Corporate driven should be community driven
- Inadequate inventory of brownfields and requirements info for remediation
- Too much land speculation

Opportunities:

- Beautify industrial areas - building urban putting grounds
- New methods or research on remediation 'not yet known'
- Support Community Land Trust
- Lots of them
- Peak Oil (end of cheap oil) - chance to rebuild a diverse economic base that is accessible by public transit (LRT), bicycling, and walking
- Training: Remediation and learning opportunities
- Stigma associated - we need to think of these as opportunities and not problems
- Reprocess contaminated land by using leading edge technologies developed for the Alberta Tar Sands
- Return of common land. Bio Remediation community health moving toward urban agriculture.

Meeting Data and Notes

- Negative tax implications. Use the land or pay for use. Tax will support community and encourage change
- Ex-appropriate of land not being used and not being sold
- Building up of greenspace
- Re-using brownfields - need to profile as way to preserve agriculture land (vs using for industry)
- Collaboration w/ other city departments (such as public health) to transition brownfields to a community asset (used to meet needs such as local food security, business development, and/or social housing needs)
- Trail development/active transportation
- Great urban design plans for the brownfields - brownfield strategy/plan for the city
- Bayshore development
- Leverage technology for local solutions
- Development of land to be 'released' by Stelco
- Return to common use and care
- Mixed uses for waterfront areas (i.e. residential and commercial instead of only industry)
- Encourage use by startups - collaboration space
- Engaging a variety of organizations/disciplines in the Bayfront Industrial Strategy

Challenges:

- Concerns of potential exposures by citizens
- Competing interests w.r.t. brownfield development means challenges in terms of funding, land use decision making, and remediation strategies
- Provincial policies far more visionary
- Too many land owners policy and broken laws. No prior knowledge or interest of what is on the land, what was on the land before industry
- Need collaboration model between developer/community organizations - city to access opportunities and leverage resources
- Cost of remediation \$ - need support from all areas and agencies
- Balance public desire for improvement with personal investment/ownership of a subject property. Do we have a right to determine what an owner does? How do we influence positive, win/win change?
- Peak oil (end of cheap oil) - people clinging to the belief that we can continue our energy-intensive lifestyles and spend big bucks to sustain it. Aerotropolis
- Port Authority has too much control - doesn't consult with broader community re land uses
- Does more need to be done to encourage central development AND discourage sprawl? Political priorities?
- Conflicting information regarding amount of brownfields in Hamilton - may be affected by conflicting definitions. Conflicting info coming from opposing sources (e.g. City of Hamilton vs 'activists')
- Absentee landlords unwilling to sell
- Hamilton Airport Green. \$1 Billion expansion - pays no tax - privately operated - secret agreement - greenbelt destruction - ignores existing brownfields

Local Food and Agriculture

Strengths:

- Local research
- Good food boxes. Many businesses and restaurants promote local food
- The rise of community gardens and CSA in Hamilton
- Presentation well done thoughtful not gov't biased
- CSA food share programs available and convenient

Meeting Data and Notes

- Rich and adaptable farmland nearby
- Newly renovated Hamilton Farmer's Market
- Rural routes transit to farms and education on local food for residents
- Community members who value good food. Part of Hamilton's culture
- Community gardens. Urban Farm
- Local food production takes strain off roads and transit
- Good farmland close to large population --> good market potential

Weaknesses:

- Agri=field. A field wants to become a forest. "Agri" culture has yet to prove to be 'sustainable', let alone be "re-generative"
- Grocery stores not stocking local produce even when in season. Where is "cog" in the system? They don't want it or not a mechanism to get it?
- Maybe need to have a smaller section like the organic one to accommodate smaller supply
- Food and water are key issues to mobilize people. Where are Andrea and Tom?
- Too many chemicals go in, not enough nutrients left behind and soil depleted as a result
- Hours of farmers market too limited
- Subsidies to large non-local processed food companies and distribution network
- Public health restrictions
- Loss of agricultural land - WE NEED FIRM URBAN BOUNDARY FOR HAMILTON
- Need more community gardens
- We need education to show why some food is less expensive i.e. It's not easy to compare apples w/out full info --> from Peru and less \$???
- Supermarket labelling of "local" food
- Learn to appreciate buying organic produce (healthy living) although it cost more

Opportunities:

- Learn from each other about growing food
- Offering more gardening workshops to elderly, newcomers and kids. Increasing skill set of Hamilton to grow their own food
- Canning workshops. Education on what to eat when, preserve for winter
- Great current capacity for agricultural production. Growing capacity for more enterprise initiatives to process food and distribute locally
- More local food in institutions i.e. Schools, hospitals, municipal events, etc.
- Increase trend and opportunities for veggie front gardens (perennials-raspberry, asparagus, low maintenance veggies in subdivision). Increase the number of community gardens
- Grow own garden
- Events like this...did you plan any local food sources? Should make it a requirement of catering to have x% of content local
- Collaboration with neighbouring networks
- Workshops teaching gardening skills to take home
- Connecting local and backyard growers with donation opportunities
- Urban agriculture
- Local is sexy
- We have fertile lands! Long growing season to take advantage of.
- Encourage grocery stores to carry more local products and advertise this to get customers to buy local goods

Meeting Data and Notes

- Allow backyard chickens
- Growing the Mustard Seed Co-op
- Food terminal for Niagara and Hamilton
- Front yard gardens --> encourage them. Provide resources such as workshop and support co-operatives
- We should have an office at City Hall that focuses on food
- Community food centres
- Permaculture (forest gardens) in urban spaces
- Restaurants sourcing local food. Facilitating farmer to restaurant connections

Challenges:

- I would like to learn how to preserve/can food. I want to make my own food so I know what's in it.
- Our local farmers aren't growing the food we eat
- Crappy food is cheap. Low income households will find challenge to justify when low-quality food is 'cheap' because we don't associate true-cost
- Keep biosolids off farmland
- Promote farmers markets at McMaster
- Selling the produce grown at community garden
- Focus on "growth" - need paradigm shift. We need to preserve agricultural land and limit urban boundary expansion
- Convenient access
- Access to resources (human, financial, social networks) for community gardens
- Using school lands for agricultural gardening
- Farmland should feed people
- Aerotropolis
- Home gardens front and backyard acceptability
- Feeding our community in a post-carbon world
- More farmers markets in more areas so people don't have to drive there (and increased frequency of farmers markets, and in poor areas)
- Supermarkets stocking local food products
- Maintaining bio-diversity relating to GMO crops being segregated from rest
- Airport NO!
- Access to space for community gardens
- Land being used for urban expansion :(
- Land redevelopment for business/commercial/residential use (need to look at role of brownfields in this)
- Improving accessibility year-round of local food

What Else?

Strengths:

- Engaged citizens
- Planning for the future. Electric cars. Renewable energy i.e. solar, wind, geothermal. Return green spaces.
- Old city = opportunity for simple/"green" infrastructure
- Community leadership - Sustainable Hamilton, Horizon, Ham SPN, etc. etc. etc.
- Central position has declined in value as transport cheapened but will grow in value as 'peak oil' drives costs back up
- Waterfall capital of the world

Meeting Data and Notes

- Participatory budgeting (Yes!!)
- Grass roots arts scene. Very passionate and talented people are the invisible hands of transformation
- Arts and culture (local and distinct)
- Volunteer capital of Canada - many care about environment and quality of life
- Randle Reef remediation
- "City of many communities" = many opportunities and places to affect change
- Show tunes
- A CITY IN CHANGE --> industrial --> health/education sectors
- Affordable housing drawing professionals to city with strong interest in sustainable community
- Acceptance of new innovative ideas and risks

Weaknesses:

- Include inherent WATERSHED FUNCTIONS as part of INFRASTRUCTURE definition - so as to build, repair, develop in SYNERGY with underlying landscape/landscape opportunities (\$ savings)
- Vision 2025 not 2050 (meaningless)
- More educational programs - more youth involvement. School involvement.
- Engrained prejudices - car vs public transit - urban vs suburban - jobs vs environment. These need to change, lessen, or integrate
- Councillors who represent wards. Councillors should represent City. End the Ward system.
- Old city = old infrastructure
- Lack of political will to pursue progressive changes needed to make Hamilton more resilient
- Save taxpayer \$ so I can be re-elected mentality. I.e. transit increases not approved in Ancaster to save \$20/year
- EMBRACE RISK! (Also an opportunity)
- An environment summit where only the converted attend is part of problem. We need much more cross stakeholder discussion to come up with an integrated view
- Transportation mainly automobile focused - need more bike lanes, better public transit system, etc.

Opportunities:

- EMBRACE RISK!
- Canada wide civic engagement
- Return to our innovative roots. Hamilton the Electric City. Look at innovations using the electron.
- Realize and value what we already have
- More industrial representation at Environmental Summits
- Greater publicity/recognition to industries making improvements. Share learnings
- Sustainability. Celebrate industry in the city rather than knocking it. Encourage the public viewing of industry - Public education - appreciation
- Plant more native trees
- Rebranding Hamilton on its quality of life merits
- Government, private sector, and citizen collaboration
- Paint the factories in the bay that are visible when going over the Skyway Bridge. Paint them so they are bright and cheerful, colourful, and bold (like the smokestacks at Nat'l Steel Car)
- Promote permeable pavement to ease stormwater pressures
- Vision 2020 Renewal --> community views and needs met/implemented through policy
- "BIO-SWAILS" system to naturally treat the stormwater run-offs from streets
- Go Bus and train transit. Multiple stops in Hamilton (mountain and east end)

Meeting Data and Notes

- Hamilton has an active and engaged community that is looking for new changes and improvements; build on community engagement processes
- Consider "elevated" LRT
- More drinking fountains in public areas
- Embrace new technologies in water/energy sustainability - build homes for 100+ years
- Complete re-development plan/strategy for north end industrial lands - succession planning
- Support the various alternative transportation options: care-share, bike-share, LRT/RT
- Burlington Street. Eye sores, prime land. How can we better utilize this area?
- Hamilton ran out of salt this winter and it was wonderful to see sand REALLY being used on city streets. Create a policy to use sand only.
- BRAND the visioning process
- LRT!
- "Stack" multiple land use purposes for synergies on same sites, streets, neighbourhoods e.g. Peace Garden = biodiversity planting = natural play = local park space = schools or access trail = café/shop "high street" ...+!
- Focus on creating complete neighborhoods/wards throughout the City, at least a place to live within the area where a car is not required
- Encourage community gardens (veg., herbs, flowers)
- Gondola to connect mountain with downtown
- Win-win ecology + enterprise --> Rozenzweigh & Beyond use as a framework for collaborative re-visioning and initiatives. \$\$\$
- Peak oil (end of cheap energy). Encouraging our ingenuity to redesign our energy use, dramatically.
- Be VISIONARY look beyond 4yr horizon take bold steps into the future
- Huge diverse community base with diverse/innovative ideas

Challenges:

- Use arts and innovative communications to bridge traditionally isolated parties of users/decision-makers/influencers/landowners
- Increased community engagement in change process to make this a sustainable community
- Defeatist mentality (ies)
- We need a better process for planning future that continually re-evaluates status quo and new info. Change is too fast to have a vision 30-40 years away
- Include young mothers, fathers, and their children in summits and convergences "complete summits"
- Systems thinking is needed, but we can't be overwhelmed. Our SWOT analysis has made us look at different issues in isolation
- Hamilton Harbour - increase swimmable days and change the perception of the water quality
- Engage all citizens so decisions aren't made based on vocal minority
- Mobilizing Hamiltonians - getting them to understand how vulnerable we are right now!
- Peak oil (end of cheap energy) - potential for people to gravitate to whoever promises to keep their consumer lifestyle intact. Think of Rob Ford's appeal (I'm from his neighbourhood)
- Leadership - how can/do our "leaders" engage our stakeholders (all of us)?
- Slow down new subdivision builds and focus on repopulating older empty housing areas. Trend of "build your own house"

Meeting Data and Notes

Celebrating Our City of Hamilton

Participants were asked to think big about Hamilton and the aspects that keep them here, working in small groups participants discussed the following: 1) What makes Hamilton a great City?; and, 2) What do you want Hamilton to look like in 30 years? From these conversations, the following emerged:

| What makes Hamilton a great City? |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people in Hamilton – community spirit • Various local communities in Hamilton (i.e. Stoney Creek) • Cultural diversity within the City • Development of the water front – variety of natural areas that have been maintained to some degree • Trees and green areas in the City • Strong neighbourhood pride – improvements to the area • Well located in Southern Ontario – close to Niagara Falls, Toronto, Lake Erie |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – diversity; volunteer capital of Canada • Natural features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have: harbour; Niagara Escarpment; green spaces; waterfalls ○ We want: HHRAP; C-E EcoPark; Randle Reef • Industry • Transportation hub • Universities and colleges • City involvement in environmental issues • Health facilities • Quality of life/ natural opportunities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse landscape: lake, harbour, escarpment, waterfalls, network of trails, waterfront, eco-park, green spaces • Diverse cultures • Location in GTHA • Lots of new development (growing real estate market) • Renewal of downtown • Arts scene renewal and cultural events • Tech and Health Sciences hub – world class institutions • Community engagement via Neighbourhood Action Strategies • Civil society groups – Big sustainability focus • Healthy dialogue/ debate about direction of City – multiple media outlets • Code red – collaboration around major challenges facing Hamiltonians • Spirit of collaboration growing • Farmers markets, food trucks – focusing entrepreneurial spirit • Resilience, adaptable, challenge status quo as external environment has changed • Creative culture • Strong neighbourhoods and links in BIA's • Strong social services – supportive community • Rich history – landmarks |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – friendly, engaged, volunteers, sense of community, care about sustainability • Harbour front • Waterfalls and escarpment |

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- Conservation areas and trails (Bruce trail, Karst area)
- Arts community
- Health sciences, medical research
- McMaster, Mohawk
- Sporting facilities – TiCats, hosting PanAm
- Still has good industrial employers
- Agriculture – farmland within the City limits
- Proximity to USA and Toronto
- Cultural Heritage – First Canadian YMCA, museums, heritage buildings
- James Street redevelopment
- Opportunities for young people to begin businesses
- Passion
- Trail system
- Waterfalls
- Diversity – population, geography, socio-economically
- Decent public transit
- Inter-city public transportation
- Heritage
- Opportunities/ exciting time of change
- Farmers market
- Cultures in downtown (local businesses – James St. N)
- Institutions – hospitals, universities
- Bus only lane
- Bike land on Cannon
- Natural resources, beautiful landscapes, escarpment, Hamilton harbour, waterfalls, Bruce trail, Cootes Paradise
- Community gardens
- Different community hubs (Locke St, Ottawa, Westdale, James N)
- Being on the water – port city, potential for boating water sports
- Waterfront trails
- Ice skating rinks outdoors
- Great location – close access to major cities, USA border, Niagara
- Access and proximity to major highways, along a Go Transit line
- McMaster and Mohawk
- Services – recycling, compost curb-side pickup
- Diverse city – great mix of ecology, urban, residential, stores
- History, museums
- Urban braille and accessibility
- Lots of community groups, high percentage of volunteering, lots of grassroots
- Has a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve running through heart of the city
- Much civic engagement
- The focus and value place on neighbourhood and community
- Ecological diversity
- Have the most industrialized cityscape and green space

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- The harbour is unique to the city in many ways
 - Coherent urban space
 - Diverse, architectural style
 - Maintained physical heritage
 - Good position as 'anchor' to the Golden Horseshoe
 - Communications hub
 - Affordable
 - Has a lot of potential to grow
- Unique natural environment - Green space, escarpment, lake, natural environment
 - Industrial legacy – transportation networks, space for roads/rail, build infrastructure
 - Strong cultural identity
 - Very culturally diverse, socio-economic diversity
 - Relatively safe
 - Diverse economy and increasing (health care, education)
 - Affordable
 - Approachable urban scale
- Downtown still draws a crowd
 - Diverse people, diverse ideas – coming together for this conferences
 - Natural beauty – waterfront, escarpment, waterfalls, forested wetlands
 - Recreation, conservation areas
 - Agricultural lands
 - Opportunity to be in nature
 - Natural history - escarpment
- Sense of collaboration within the community – events like today
 - Friendly for new comers – cultural diversity
 - Our heritage – industrial/cultural
 - Great infrastructure: largest Port, International airport, highway systems, institutions
 - Trail systems, escarpment, waterfront, royal botanical gardens
 - Good sense of community
 - Close connection to GTA(H)
 - Great learning institutions – Mohawk, MAC, Colleges, Redeemer
 - Good public transportation – room for improvement, especially for outlining communities
 - Walkable city – especially downtown
 - Super crawl/art crawl – lifestyle for youth
 - Affordable housing
 - Good industry base – opportunities for jobs
 - Lots of sources for healthcare
- Natural environment: Niagara Escarpment, harbour, lake, marsh, tender fruit land
 - Agriculture
 - Industries, industrial heritage – “The Electric City”
 - Scale – walkability
 - “City of Communities”
 - Centre of excellence for: healthcare, education, innovation park
 - Expertise in water and wastewater

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- Diverse community that works– “mosaic of sub-cultures”
- Scale of community – Hamilton is “the right size” to be able to work together
- Groups that try to educate others (e.g. Green Ventures, Clean Air Hamilton) – environmental groups work well together; gradual influence the City
- “City of Perspectives” – you can view the City from different angles from different locations (e.g. from Skyway bridge, from mountain)
- Access to nature – Cootes Paradise, escarpment trail
- Old infrastructure and architecture – “good bones’
- Unique and interesting experiences vs. bland strip malls
- Situated in green
- Mixture of diversity – people, ethnicities, socio-economic groups, festivals, ethnic food scene, restaurants
- Grassroots/citizen activism – passion, pride, getting work done, pushing the envelope
- Proximity – everything is close by
- Affordable housing vs. Toronto/Vancouver
- Family-oriented – kids get unique experiences
- Grassroots arts and culture – galleries, artistic and community spaces (e.g. staircase theatre)
- Educational institutions – Mac/Mohawk
- Healthcare hub, world class facilities
- Natural assets – mountain, waterfalls, Cootes, trails, valleys
- Climate
- Good industry
- Its people
- Affordability
- Educational prominence
- Diversity
- Opportunities for different activities (cultural, sports)
- Its scale – it has enough of everything
- Accessibility to agriculture
- Our location – accessible to Toronto, Niagara, USA, water
- Food – local restaurants, coffee shops
- Neighbourhoods
- Churches – old, beautiful, grand, historical
- Schools, 21st floor of Stelco Tower
- History of our neighbourhoods
- Natural heritage
- Diversity of people, built environment, landscape, transportation and infrastructure
- Fantastic community champions
- Location
- Historic buildings
- Affordability of housing
- Opportunity for growth
- Economic diversity amongst families
- Healthcare

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- Economic transition is multi-faceted – diverse industries
 - Easy access to outdoors
 - Art culture
 - Civic pride
 - LGBTQ support
 - Higher education (Mohawk, Mac)
 - Infrastructure (roadways) is able to be re-adapted
- Best big-small town
 - More opportunities in education and industry
 - Big wastewater treatment plants
 - Diversity of natural features: escarpment, Cootes paradise/wetlands, great waterfront
 - Community intent on retaining identity
 - Lots of scope for awareness and engagement
 - Good transportation – rail, road, water, walking trails, bike trails
 - Half of the city is under rural production – good mix of urban/rural
 - Park system linking resources
 - Rich cultural history, ethnic diversity
 - Museums
- Waterfront
 - Leadership from Mohawk in sustainability
 - Green space/ escarpment as a natural place, defining features
 - The variety of community groups
 - Heritage architecture
 - Straight line roads
 - Optimum sized city
 - Good health care/ hospital network/ research
 - Willingness to try change/ take risk as a municipality
 - Being in the Golden Horseshoe
- Physical attributes
 - Community is engaged
 - Willingness to improve
 - City that cares
 - Artistic, music, support of the arts
 - Differences/diversity of communities, neighbourhoods, urban areas
- Green space
 - Harbour/Bayfront
 - Community spirit
 - Urban core – defined downtown
 - Vibrant arts community
 - Diversity – strong history of immigration
 - Strong grassroots
 - Collection of communities with their own identity
- The people
 - The green space/ escarpment

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- The harbour
- The educational facilities
- Cultural heritage/ architecture
- Arts scene
- Medical facilities
- Urban/rural mix
- Grid orientation and mix
- Viable downtown
- Repurposing of existing infrastructure/buildings
- neighbourhoods
- Willingness to adapt
- Lots of green space
- Diversity – cultural, geography, built form, urban/rural
- Farmers markets
- Neighbourhood pride
- Residential participation in community projects
- Post-secondary schools
- Quality of life
- Rethinking of City's strategies
- Not afraid to talk change
- Safe city
- Waterfalls
- Harbourfront and access
- Rural and urban character
- Multi-cultural
- Art scene
- Housing affordability
- Rail/port/highway/airport and central hub
- Wine country
- Diverse industry and business base
- Expansive education and health systems
- Good quality post-secondary schools – diversity with Christian college
- Professional sports teams
- Sports infrastructure
- Natural areas throughout the city
- Farmers market
- Super/art crawl
- Walkable neighbourhoods and schools

What makes Hamilton a great City?

- Young/transition/rebirth – city in change
- Medical/small business
- ‘good bones’
- Change only looked possible after deindustrialization
- Cost of living is lower
- Attracts young professionals
- Vibrant arts community
- Diverse/beautiful
- Urban/rural mix
- Passion for city
- Motivation to keep local talent
- Politicians have woken up
- Population is resilient
- Diverse
- Activism

The Next Community Vision

Participants were asked to think big **about the future** of Hamilton and to brainstorm opportunities for the future. In groups of 4, participants discussed the following questions: 1) What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision? and, 2) How do you suggest engaging with the currently unengaged populations? The following emerged from the discussions:

What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision?

- Engaged community
- Diverse perspectives (age, culture, location, faith groups)
- Establish common goals and values
- Adequate resources
- Prioritizing human resources
- Key stakeholders involved in Steering Committee
- Define what long-term is – decades or multi-generational?
- Extensive/ multiple stage community engagement strategy with yearly check-ins/ updates
- Tangible outputs that residents can see how their input was incorporated into the plans
- Indicators that measure progress in ways that residents understand
- Framework/ goals needs to be established
- City council needs to work together without conflict
- Partnership between industry, city, residents, NGOs
- Educate from the ground-up and early
- Performance measurement shown in clear language
- Inclusive
- Regular communication with report card
- Appropriate evolution (flexibility)
- Program needs to be flexible

Meeting Data and Notes

| What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision? |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation & error • Financial resources for long-term |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad spectrum of engagement – inclusive, engage all stakeholders (including industry), demographics (age) and the suburbs • Community based social marketing – connecting them through the channels they are used to listening to • Willing to take the time to get it right – setting achievable and understandable targets/ deadlines • Re-visiting your vision and explaining to people what it – learn from successes and failures and build on what was done before • “Educate” the stakeholders before you move forward – everyone needs to be on the same page and need to get a consensus before we move forward on any vision (need buy-in) • Recognize the diversity from within all communities • Need strong leadership |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political will and leadership • A collective vision • Achievable goals • Who is involved • Dedicated resource/ staff to lead the project • Work place • Key needs/ wants • Community leaders • Experts |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable targets – clear scope of process • It maintains itself – self-sustaining • Power to inspire community to invest in it • Respectful consideration by council when ideas are presented • Excellent leadership • Clear process – include creative thinking and critical thinking • Buy-in by local residents – engagement, ask opinions • Breadth of plan to reflect breadth of community – community stories • Broad representation • Criteria and indicators defined clearly • Risk-taking – leadership to commit to vision, intelligence to make mistakes • “Whole-community” approach to process and plan • Strong leadership to sell ideas/ vision for sustainability • Must recognize complexity, be realistic |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise message • Inspirational but attainable goals • Community/ stakeholder input and ownership (broad-based) • Tangible/ measureable targets (meaningful and appropriate) • Accountability/ continued application and use of vision in practice |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional inter-connections – collaboration between diverse stakeholders • Effective methods of communication |

Meeting Data and Notes

| What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision? |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effort at gathering all the stakeholders affected by an issue (gap analysis re: participants) • Do the above often • Always evaluating – should be up for renewal often |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement-based • Based in reality • Departments develop their own visions, which then get combined and integrated into the ‘city plan’ • Made appealing • Built with a mindset to increase buy-in • Written in a language people understand • Accountability must be built-in, but also needs to be flexible • Marketed well • It should push people to do more • The product should drive behaviour change • Empowering – make clear who can take action • It should suggest ‘projects’ but not be limited to them |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify possible threats of climate change on infrastructure, natural environment • Successful community engagement • An enlightened community and leadership • Transparent process • 30 year work plan • Balancing environment, economics, social and cultural components • Self-reliant community • Positive health and social impacts • Connectivity between and among neighbourhoods |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active transportation (cycling culture) • Community engagement and cooperation • Health as a link • Food security • Building up, not out • Government incentives for active living • Green space • Smaller cohesive neighbourhoods • Waste management • Improved public communication/ consultation from city • Leadership at large organizations • Bridging urban/rural divide • Inclusiveness/ connectivity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual improvement • Municipal support • Flexible plan • Transparency – follow-up • Stakeholder approach (public, industry, NGOs, government) • Incorporate into organizations mandate and policies |

Meeting Data and Notes

| What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision? |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the vision marketable – make is personal for individuals • Community ownership • Goal-oriented vision – short and long-term goals • Measuring tools – milestones, deliverables for success |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active follow through on group discussions (e.g. actions for Hamilton Environment. Summits) • Public consultation – complete and thorough (mix of community participants, mix of planners, doers, etc.) • Visionary elected leaders • What are other communities doing? • Sustainability – attitude + mind-set |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health support, integration of specialities, economic, transportation, engineering, etc. Multi-disciplinary collaboration in planning • Need a common understanding • Students at all levels should be actively involved in community projects • Complete triple bottom line (economic, environmental and social) sustainability integrated into the overall community vision • Finding a common ground • Focus on quality growth – find the niche |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep schools local – no super schools • Have multi-stakeholder input so that all have a voice • Well-developed local transportation system – N/E as well as E/W in City • Replace heavy industry with many smaller industries • Start a second university in Hamilton for more research and development with industry • Education of city staff to work toward the goals and vision • Break down the silos in City staff – more collaboration in planning • Encourage coop positions with businesses that can lead to permanent jobs • Safer bike lanes that isolate the bikes from cars and trucks |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has to include wide range of participants and high number of participants • Has to engage 13-30 year olds • Not going through the actions of ‘consultation’ • Harbour as a part of the community – needs to be a ‘planned asset’ so it remains an asset • Plan to keep things an asset that are already seen as one • More focus on public buy-in – to show that issues are complete and there is no simple solution • Long-term plan • How to manage the Port Authority |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage a broad spectrum of people in the community (diverse perspectives – go beyond people who are intrinsically motivated) • Meet people where they are • Understand challenges (poverty, class, education) • Incentives for behaviour change • Understandability and accessibility • Possibilities – a plan that inspires (action, ideas) – look at successes and celebrate them • Connect the vision to everyday life – • Broad-based communication (social medial, traditional norms) |

Meeting Data and Notes

| What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision? |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political will in the City • Set objectives and targets – tangibility, specificity, transparency |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community buy-in and ownership • Self-direction tool box needed • Leadership from city and community (joint chairs) • Diverse perspectives for input • Self-generated revenue – new vision should have ability to generate own revenue to fund future outreach, vision activities OR creation of a fund (aka Future Fund) • Engagement – integrate neighbourhood planning results into larger vision |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad based groups/organizations involved in development and take ownership • Stakes need to be documented • Make people feel like their input is valued • Continued funding • Willingness to take risk • Sustainable development lens – flexible, evolution over time • Good champion to drive the vision – it takes time and planning • Putting the right people in power – accountability • Keep up the momentum – especially with election coming |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things that are doable • Use a model that incorporates back-casting • “What does the global future look like in which we will be a part?” – must think about this, not just past/now (climate change? Energy sector?) • Perhaps new measures of success that are not GDP based; prosperity without growth • Citizen consultation/ engagement • Participatory budgeting • Strong leadership • Collaboration between municipal and provincial bodies of government • Collaboration among groups of people (i.e. community groups, city departments, and politicians) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: “long-term vision” too long term? • Solution: 5, 10, 15 year targets and annual targets – 2020 too long term • Success: A complete community concept • Important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic development ○ Forming sustainable neighbourhoods and expanding ○ Focus on intersecting transit – reduce car dependency ○ The choice not to have to drive a car around ○ Define what a neighbourhood means for the present, future, 2020 ○ Priority areas – downtown, certain wards ○ Why do we keep approving urban development when it is not necessary ○ Affordable housing in areas where public transit is available - all communities could have parks, community gardens ○ Road width in Hamilton – we should narrow |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada-wide engagement for local initiatives |

What do you see as the key conditions of success or requirements for a successful long-term community vision?

- Majority (approaching) buy-in
 - Articulating/promoting the vision – both top down and bottom up
 - Engages youth
 - Incorporating innovative ideas
 - All-inclusive public consultation (all ages, all interest groups, etc.)
 - Adaptive management approach – evaluate throughout and revise/ adapt
 - Implementable/ doable
 - Equitable for all citizens
 - Recognize different needs and prioritize in different areas
 - Balanced between socio-economic and environmental
- Public education
 - More engagement
 - Holistic approach – look at everything as a whole
 - Took an inventory of our existing conditions, or realities
 - Develop a plan outlining where we want to go and how we are going to get there
- Unfortunately, one aspect of an “Environmental Vision” for the community that is missing is any mention of the Niagara Escarpment, Cootes Paradise, Harbour or Lake Ontario. These are the big four of the natural environment. How we are doing as a rural and urban community will be reflected in the condition of Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour. These two features are a barometer for local environmental conditions. I realize that Vision 2020 is a holistic approach to improving Hamilton but from my particular bias I think a little more connection with the big four natural features would help people to connect themselves with nature and their impact on their natural surroundings.

3. Different Perspectives & A Common Vision - Panel

During the final session, four panelists engaged in a discussion on the following question: “As Vision 2020 approaches renewal, what do you see as being the most important conditions, steps, or requirements to ensure a new successful and sustainable long-term plan for our community?” Key elements of the panel discussion are below:

Linda Lukasik, Executive Director, Environment Hamilton

- Reflect and learn from the lessons we have learned from the past, and run a comparable community engagement process to that of Vision 2020.
- The new Vision requires an effective framework for sharing responsibility for implementation
- Reframe this as a Plan that is owned by the broader community (use the process similar as the Hamilton Remedial Action Plan) and set-up an organizational structure to ensure implementation (like committees, groups and specific responsibilities)
- Ensure that indicators are updated to reflect priority concerns and changes (e.g. climate change, extreme weather, food security), and commit to a process for reporting and reassessing indicators to ensure that they remain relevant.
- Update the community on how we are doing on indicators.
- Integration of existing plans and initiatives continues to remain very important (as an example linking Vision 2020 to the City’s Strategic Plan).

Meeting Data and Notes

- Ensure there is a commitment to stick to the principles and ensure accountability in decision making.

Keanin Loomis, CEO & President, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

- Hamilton is Canada's best kept secret.
- Don't take "status-quo" for an answer. There are real bones downtown Hamilton – this is a blank slate – more change will come – however change always takes time – don't get frustrated – there is so much that has changed over the last several years.
- Complete streets and other progressive policies will help us to achieve an environment where business will flourish and people will flock to – as an example, focus on Main Street – our streets have the potential to grow our economy.

Don Jaffray, Executive Director, Social Planning & Research Council

- The goals that were articulated for Vision 2020 need to be reassessed as do the Principles. Times have changed and priorities have changed – we need to have a sense of shared Goals & Principles and the ability to rethink our Values. Look around and outside the City of Hamilton to set our Goals and Values.
- Must have shared ownership of the Plan.
- Our work has to go beyond the physical and the built environment – we want to create a community that is healthy from a number of perspectives.
- Figure out how to engage people in this process – and help them understand how to help create shared Goals & Principles.
- Regular reporting on how the Plan is progressing is essential (whether it is succeeding or not). This will continue to motivate people, organizations, business, industry and government to help the Plan move forward.
- This will take time and a lot of work to do this right.

Stephanie Vegh, Executive Director, Hamilton Arts Council

- Culture needs to be treated as an equal player in sustainability.
- Needs to be more wide-spread support on arts and culture and the intersection between environment, economy and social pillars.
- People are attracted to stories – culture can help us to tell a great story and help to get people involved, all of these issues has a human face and can help to build empathy.
- Engage the community in arts and culture.
- Identify the barriers that are keeping people from engaging or accessing the arts in Hamilton (e.g. geographic barriers) arts should happen all across the City.
- People want to have livable downtowns; we want them to be walkable and livable. There is an opportunity to reclaim our streets and the arts can help with that.
- Adaptive reuse issues have to be overcome in order to help move Hamilton forward.
- The rural and natural legacy in Hamilton is our gems – this needs to be celebrated and recognized and apart of our City's identity. Farmland needs to be cherished and protected. Arts and culture can help play the role of story teller to help make this happen.

The presentations were recorded, and can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJlrSnItRUYiCb9sO8SbHlw>.