

To: Aidan Johnson

Subject: 102 Ainslie Avenue

Sir:

I grew up on Emerson St. At the time West Hamilton was a vibrant flourishing community. The city limit was Leland and Highway 102 (Cootes Drive) Whitney ended at Alexander Park. McMaster consisted of a few buildings and had little affect on the community. I enjoyed my childhood and had good friends. I eventually left the community for a short time got and married. We had the opportunity to buy a house on Whitney and did. The reason at the time to purchase the house was that it was a great neighborhood to raise a family. We have been living in our present abode since 1969. When the Mc Master Hospital opened in the early '70's things began to change. McMaster began to expand and by the mid '80's student rental housing began to take of until it is what it is today..

I live on Whitney between Ewen Rd and the Hydro right of way. There are 10 houses in this group 4 are student rentals i.e. 40%. If this extended from Rifle Range to Lower Horning it is still around 40%. If one assumes there are 5000 houses in Ainsley Wood 2000 (40%) are rental units. Assuming 6 students per unit that translates into 12000 students.

When I first thought this thru I felt it was high until being told that total student enrollment was about 45000 Now it is probably low

WE LIVE IN A MC MASTER DORMITORY!

A couple of years ago I was walking one of my grandchildren on Bowman. To avoid Main st. with a young grandchild I crossed to Emerson via Sussex. Walking south on Emerson at 0830 was very difficult because of the flow of students walking North. I felt like a salmon swimming stream.

Ainsley wood has slowly become a dormitory for McMaster. We must reclaim our community. The area I live in the people are getting older and I do not doubt that the houses will be coming on the market in the next few years. When this happens how can we ensure that these buildings are not converted to student dwellings and further degrading the community.

Allan and Teresa Norgate

2015/07/01