

Beatrice Joan Jeffrey

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Hamilton ON

*Gentlemen & Ladies:*

To Whom it May Concern,

This Letter is further to my previous one. Fifty years ago when the Lax family showed the city their housing project, it was rejected because of the infrastructure of the North End could not bear it. Here we are again. Was an impact study done on the streets from Burlington to Guise regarding the increase in traffic; the pressure on the 100 year old sewer system, the roads etc. How were the residents consulted? Were the residents consulted? There is I understand a store front where you can discuss this project but it is located in the Centre City North (Jamesville) not in the area affected. Couldn't you have put a trailer advertising and informing the positive and negative aspects of the project on a corner in Eastwood Park by the bus stop? Is this project going to upgrade the sewer system on John, Mary, and Catharine. While you may wonder why I write to all of you concerning this matter it is not my ward that it concerns, to give you an idea of where I am coming from I must travel in time to 1938. My family and I took the Burlington Street Car to Eastwood Park to attend a city picnic. When I saw the park I was enthralled with all the mature trees. the ball diamond was there and the lawn ran right down to the water, of course the picnic tables were there. To the west of the park was a large house with a lawn all around of it half the size of Eastwood park; beyond this lawn i could see two large boats. It was explained to me that the house was Macassa Lodge and the boats were ferries that travelled back and forth to Lasalle Park; another picnic park of Hamilton (but for how long).

1939 - The navy took over Eastwood Park at the Bayfront - deemed strategic Macassa was torn down and placed on the mount although the ferries were still running 6 years later they gradually stopped. The area had

fences with the exception of a lot beside Leander. This lot unwalkable due to what they dumped on it. Many years later the city needed another access to the brow and the Lax family who owned the water lot at the end of Strachan Street welcomed the fill. They had plans which met with a great deal of opposition. Those fears are still relevant today. Through the effort of many people we have Bayfront Park joining with the land by Leander.

Recently I attended a wedding on Goat Island in Niagara Falls United States it is a lovely old park where the river view is captured as well as the falls. It is the park itself that is wonderful and used by the locals with a trolley that runs the extent of it. Then we come to Niagara Falls Canada whose land along the river as well as the Falls are beautiful thanks to one man who put his money where his mouth was "these views should be for everyone" and we have a legacy today of Niagara Parks a beauty for all. Toronto has been gradually beautifying the lakefront from Sunnyside to Ontario Place to preserve the lake for walkers, bikers joggers just to preserve the view of the lake. St Catharines recently in the news because of the pier the residents like to walk on down in the park and enjoy it. Why is Hamilton even considering putting housing on the land surrendered by the Harbour Commission? This is negative not visionary thinking. Setting Sail an apt name of a group who have lost vision. They don't like open spaces. Oddly enough that is what the main opposition was to the Lax property. The housing belongs on Stuart street which begs for development as well as Ferguson avenue where the Hotz company was, Cannon at Ferguson already has a new high rise with more to come. Mr Stinson wants to develop Mary Street Mill as well as the school on Barton Street. This area is in for more transition and density. We need more open space. We should be preserving as much Bayfront land to appreciate and enjoy. Putting a housing project on this prime location is not good progressive thinking. Should the Navy ever decide their land is not strategic this too could be added to the park land. We need to hand it to the Parks Board for they are a better organization to develop this special property. I urge you to cancel

this development and put a moratorium height restriction of 3 stories back on the North End Community and preserve the image of Hamilton. Lets start looking further into the future.

With more and more ethnic groups living here they'll need places to celebrate festivals and get together. Gage Park can't do it all. Music venues held in the afternoon an artificial water display beautifying the knoll, making it more wheelchair and stroller friendly so many things can be done. I urge you to place it in the hands of the Park Board as they do things so well. If you look at a map of Hamilton at the early 20th century you will see a large park at the Bayfront what happened to it? I suspect because the Federal Government established the Harbour Commission with no input from Hamilton. It may not have fit their mandate. We did not get representation until a nation wide scandal occurred. They are probably the ones who caused the decline in the Bayfront area. I ask you to stop this housing development just like urban renewal was stopped.

Yours Truly,

Beatrice J Jeffrey

Don't write off the  
integration of Ferguson down  
to EASTWOOD. Think a tree lined  
Pathway at the EDGE of  
EASTWOOD down to the bay. The  
Ice Rink could be moved to  
share the parking with the  
soccer field.