

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Dundas laneway

From: Mary Shambrook
Sent: June-27-17 11:21 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Dundas laneway

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to tell you why I object to the closing of the public laneway in Dundas that runs between Alma Street and Victoria Street. I have lived in Dundas for thirty-eight years and I have used this laneway frequently when walking with my family and my dogs. I moved to Dundas because it was a beautiful old Ontario town with lots of history and many quaint and unusual features. The laneways are a part of this quaintness! As a Dundanian, I do not feel that it is in my best interest to change the character of my town. I do not own property abutting the alley but, in fairness, the property is designated as public property and I am a part of that public.

I feel that if there is to be a change, some other options should be considered. There is talk that they are going to narrow Sydenham Street. If this happens where will the bikes go? The Sydenham hill has been used by the Olympic Biking team and by many others as a valuable training ground. Clara Hughes used this hill and there is a plaque to honor her at the top of Sydenham. If you plan on changing Sydenham Street, the alleyways could be put to use as an alternative for the bikers to avoid the lower part of Sydenham and to allow bikers to continue to train on Sydenham hill. This seems like a better use for our so-called public land.

I also feel that we need to come back to the idea of democracy. The group in Dundas has six hundred and fifty signatures against the sale of the alley. This far outnumbers the people in favor. The safety issues cited by Councillor Vanderbeek have not been a problem for the last one hundred and sixty years. Why is it suddenly a major problem? I recognize the problem with traffic when parents are picking up children as I live directly across from the school and my property is frequently used as a city parking lot, however, a simple sign prohibiting parking in the area in front of the school where the buses are gathered would help eliminate that problem. Most schools do have a no parking or stopping area where the buses are standing.

Please consider keeping our public laneway open and looking at some of the options that are available to retain the historic and quaint Valley Town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Shambrook