

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Please vote "no" to selling the public laneway between Alma and Victoria Street in Dundas

**From:** Miriam Reed

**Sent:** June-27-17 11:58 AM

**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca; Partridge, Judi; roberta.posuta@hamilton.ca; VanderBeek, Arlene; Ferguson, Lloyd; Johnson, Brenda; Pearson, Maria; doug.canley@hamilton.ca; terrywhitehead@hamilton.ca; donnaskelly@hamilton.ca; Jackson, Tom; Collins, Chad; sam.murella@hamilton.ca; Green, Matthew; Farr, Jason; aiden.johnson@hamilton.ca; Public Laneway

**Subject:** Please vote "no" to selling the public laneway between Alma and Victoria Street in Dundas

I write this letter with a heavy heart. When I heard that the specific lane as stated above was potentially for sale and consequently no longer accessible for the public to walk down I felt a true sadness in my heart. I grew up in Dundas, and live approximately 1/3 of a kilometer from the lane way. I attended Parkside Hightschool throughout my secondary school career. Almost every day I walked to and from Parkside and almost everyday I walked through the alley way. Sometimes, I would be running with knapsacks, bags and textbooks - the alley way cut about 3 minutes off my 8-10 minute walk from home to school. Sometimes, I would walk leisurely accompanied by a friend who lived in the large white house on the corner of Sydenham and Victoria. We would meet or say good bye, at her back door and we would walk together chatting and discussing our school day. Sometimes, I would walk alone and quietly appreciate the large trees, shade and peacefulness of the lane way - even as a teenager I would try to distance myself from the very loud and fast vehicles that traveled along Sydenham St.

As you know, Parkside no longer exists. The traffic on Sydenham continues to be abundant, fast and loud. I now live in my family home (on Sydenham St) with my own children and husband and while I don't walk to high school, I do use the alley way to walk to the park, to visit friends and to run errands. I use the alley way in the same way I used it 35 years ago. Sometimes I am able to accomplish errands faster - and I think if I can walk instead of drive I am helping the environment and living in a healthier way. I will use the alleyway and encourage my children to use the lane way, (during the daytime) because there aren't many cars and it is peaceful and quite beautiful. While discussing the issue with my 12 year old son the other day, he very innocently asked..."I don't understand, why would anybody want to close the alley way and not allow people to walk through?". When I considered the alley way has been used without issue for over 100 years and now suddenly there is a risk of closure....I thought ..."I had no answer as to WHY?". I had NO good response.

One might say, "Have you ever lived in a house that backed onto a lane way?" and I can say I have. Prior to purchasing my family home on Sydenham, I lived on Park Street and an alley way ran behind our house. It was a most attractive asset to that piece of real estate. I loved the alley way and I loved when people strolled down it and looked curiously and with joy at the beauty of backyards and old trees, and perhaps wondered about the use of the alley ways in days gone by. To my knowledge, we never had any issues related to safety/ crime and the alleyway. Dundas is a special little community. Old houses, old schools, old churches, and old paths and alley/lane ways contribute to that "special" community. I hope that this public access to the laneway will not be lost. I hope that future generations will be able to enjoy the access to the laneway and the integrity of the "small town feel" to Dundas will continued to be valued and preserved. Please vote NO, to closing, selling and privatizing the public access laneway.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider this most important issue.

Miriam Reed