

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Gage Park

From: Art Drysdale
Sent: August 23, 2018 1:01 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc:
Subject: Gage Park

To: the Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council

Gentlemen and Ladies, please allow me to introduce myself.

I am Art Drysdale who for over 25 years broadcasted about gardening and horticulture on one of two radio stations in the golden horseshoe of Ontario. First at Toronto's CFRB (I was there during part of the time that Bob Bratina was also on their staff), and then at Oakville's AM740 until 2007. I also was employed by Sheridan Nurseries as their Horticulturist for eight years. Following my departure from there I was appointed Secretary and Executive Director of the Dunington Grubb Foundation—the foundation established by the founder of the nursery originally to open a botanical garden in Meadowvale, Ontario.

The reason I enjoyed my work with the foundation was that I was a good friend of Mr. Dunington-Grubb and during the last couple of years of his life, I drove him back and forth from his home in Rosedale to the office in Etobicoke. (Coincidentally we lived quite close to each other, thus it worked well for us to drive together.)

During my time with the foundation we carried out numerous horticultural projects in southern Ontario including a \$650,000 donation toward the addition to Toronto's Civic Garden Centre (now known as Toronto Botanical Garden), compilation of a Horticultural History of Canada, now headquartered at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton/Burlington, and a significant donation to rose cultivar research at the University of Guelph.

Now, after over forty years of working with various horticultural and gardening charities, our Board has decided to merge our operations with a group in Ontario. We have searched the province for such a group and thus far the leading contender is The Friends of Gage Park, through Mr. David Beland.

For twenty-five years The Friends of Gage Park have preserved the Dunington Grubb Gardens at Gage Park and for the last ten years faithfully overseen their restoration.

We had virtually decided to pass over the remaining funds and our records to them to carry on the Foundation work in preserving the Dunington Grubb Legacy. However, we have recently been

advised that the City is looking at a plan that would remove a part of the restored, original, formal gardens in order to install a Firefighters Memorial.

While no one would oppose such a memorial for the City, I believe removing any part of the restored gardens in Gage Park should not even be considered when other locations can be found.

Such an action places us in a position to re-examine our thinking about the ultimate destination for the balance of our funds and the Foundation records. The first point of the Mission Statement of the Friends of Gage Park is to preserve the historical gardens. After restoring the gardens and all the work of the Friends of Gage Park, if the City does not see value in this asset it will be necessary to consider a City that does see value in their Dunington Grubb designs.

Given the importance of these gardens, we would be most pleased to hear that Hamilton City Council has reconsidered the placement of the Firefighters Memorial. The Friends of Gage Park can then meet its mandate and we can proceed with the discussions on the transfer of our Foundation to them and make Hamilton the new home of The Dunington Grubb Foundation.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Cordially,

Art C. Drysdale

Garden Broadcaster and Writer,

Please visit: [www.Art Drysdale.com](http://www.ArtDrysdale.com) and
www.ICanGardem.com