

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** Friends of the Aviary plea for support  
**Attachments:** FriendsoftheAviary\_Flint.PNG

**From:** Carly B.  
**Sent:** February 3, 2019 4:45 PM  
**To:** Davenport, Alicia <[Alicia.Davenport@hamilton.ca](mailto:Alicia.Davenport@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** Friends of the Aviary plea for support

My name is Carly Bedford and I sit on the Programming Committee at the Friends of the Aviary. As a volunteer I am obviously of the opinion that the aviary should be saved at all costs. As it is an invaluable asset to the community in terms of its long history, the unique area of expertise that it gives insight into, and joy that it can provide to the community. As you know, there is no other organization like it in our city, and it is a privilege for community members to have access to such a beautiful creatures not only for enjoyment and appreciation, but also for educational purposes. The aviary has a long standing history in the city of Hamilton, it adds to our cultural heritage, and it is such a shame to see it put into such a precarious position because of circumstances largely beyond their control.

With a secure home, the aviary can focus on many other tasks, and I can attest to the fact that we have already started putting to fruition ideas for outreach and programming, so that many more children and adults alike can learn about aviculture and have the chance to interact with these magnificent birds. We have already started discussions with the Hamilton Public Library about doing children's programming as part of their Summer Reading Program, and we have interests in other demographics though visiting old age homes and other community groups. There is great potential for this to become a big attraction in our city, not to mention an authority of Avian education, and I know that interest will continue to grow if the aviary is given the chance to develop.

Many of the birds have socialization issues and cannot be cared for in a regular homes. Separating and re-housing the flock will no doubt be devastating to the birds, but also to those who have dedicated so much time and effort to care for them over the years. Exotic birds are not easy to look after, and there isn't a big demand for them in the same way that there are cats and dogs. It is a serious commitment, as many of these birds will live for many decades more, so reducing their quality of life to a residential home, with someone who perhaps does not have the experience required to care for them, would be devastating to them. This aviary is truly a labour of love, the birds were promised a home that was taken away from them and they should not have to suffer and lose their quality of life over forced housing issues.

I ask that you fight to save the aviary, and allow the volunteers to continue doing the amazing work that they have been doing. Taking the housing pressure off of the organization can allow us to continue to develop avenues of revenue to assist with the costs of rent and caring for the birds. We only want what is best for the birds, as they did not choose to be in this position, nor can they in any way control their futures should the aviary be dissolved.

Please consider the amazing potential of the aviary, the fact that we have a dedicated team of volunteers willing to put in the work to save these birds, and most importantly, please consider the impact that closure would have on the lives of these wonderful animals.

Many thanks,

Carly Bedford

