

MILLAR, ALEXANDER

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

JOHN S. MILLAR, Q.C., A de C (1953-1992)
JOHN PAUL MILLAR, B.A., LL.B.
COLIN GEOFFREY MILLAR, B.A., LL.B.

TELEPHONE 905- 528-1186
FAX 905-529-7073
toll free phone no. - 1-888-472-5459
email-millaralexander@on.abn.com
Plaza Level, STANDARD LIFE CENTRE
120 KING STREET WEST
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
L8P 4V2

September 16, 2019

Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

ATTENTION: Councillor Chad Collins - Ward 5

Dear Sir:

Re: Aviary

You will recall in June of this year, an introductory meeting was held with City of Hamilton representatives regarding a client of ours, wishing to provide a substantial donation in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to bring back the Aviary to the prominence it once held, while also making it a Hamilton attraction worth visiting.

The structure envisioned could be modelled after the open flying area bird house located at Niagara Falls Bird Kingdom. This structure contains waterfalls, mature trees and shrubs, pathways and seating areas for the public – where they are actually within the same cage enclosure as the birds inhabitants.

Our client would like the birds to have as much freedom to fly naturally as possible within the compound and not be imprisoned as in their present small wire cages.

Being aware some species do not get along, possibly a separate smaller adjoining unit could be constructed housing birds that cannot integrate peacefully.

We recently visited the new Tropical Greenhouse at Gage Park with our client and found it to be a wonderful addition to the citizens of Hamilton.

A suggestion is that the proposed Aviary could quite possibly be located as an attachment to the new structure's west side glass wall. This building with limited modification and a new adjoining addition could easily replace the undersized and inadequate building presently used in Westdale's Churchill Park.

It should be noted that the volunteers operating the present Aviary are doing a marvellous job given the limited capacity and building structure available to them. There is no intention to eliminate or require any change to the level of care currently provided by these devoted volunteers. Rather, the sole intention is to enhance the lives of the presently caged birds with much improved living accommodations placed within far more natural surroundings.

The proposed expansion could easily fit into the grass area currently existing in Gage Park without any significant loss of surrounding green.

This would be the most obvious desired location for such a facility, since the Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse is already in full operation and contains just about everything required, except the addition of birds. Such an Aviary when attached to the west side of the greenhouse, (which, incidentally has all tropical planting, waterfalls seating, etc., already established) could surely attract additional interest to Hamilton as a prized tourist area.

Our client's one stipulation is that there be a firm time line established for acceptance of this bequest from the various City departments involved to determine what format of building would be acceptable, where such a location will be permitted, or whether there is consensus the newly opened Tropical Gage Park Greenhouse could be easily altered to incorporate the proposed Aviary.

We would also inquire whether the City of Hamilton would agree to such modifications and/or addition to the existing new structure within the boundaries of our client's gift. A clear understanding of what the donation limitations are should any additional expenditures arise while creating the bird house or its future maintenance when in operation.

Our client is concerned that once the media finds out about such a donation, there is the strong possibility of being inundated with unwelcomed publicity. Therefore it would be appreciated if any information released takes place through our legal office.

We understand that when the refurbishing of the Aviary is accomplished and a small remembrance tablet displayed acknowledging the client's lifelong love for all wildlife-- at that time the media may have limited contact.

Should this Million Dollar donation not be accepted within a stipulated time period, then this offer will be withdrawn and re-directed to other charitable organizations interested in wildlife enhancement.

We look forward to your response.

MILLAR, ALEXANDER

Per:

JOHN PAUL MILLAR

JPM:ld