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To: Judi Partridge, Veronica McMullen, Christine DiGiantomasso and Arlene VanderBeek
christine.digiantomasso@hamilton.ca; judi.partridge@sympatico.ca arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca;
veronica.mcmullen@hamilton.ca

Subject: Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan

Dear Councillor Judi Partridge:

I am writing on behalf of the Flamborough Horticultural Society to let you know that we support the Biodiversity Action Plan which is to be discussed at the April 7th meeting of the General Issues Committee. We want to make the case for an aggressive Biodiversity Action Plan for Hamilton. We are in the midst of a global loss of biodiversity. Approximately 75 per cent of the world's food crops rely on insects and other animals for pollination. For flowering plants, the figure is 90 per cent. Each of Canada's 15 ecozones play a critical role in the survival of species. Necessary actions from all of us include conserving nature, constructing wetlands, protecting existing wetlands, removing invasive plant species (e.g., Phragmites, European Buckthorn), protecting endangered species and engaging communities in bird-friendly practices. These actions will benefit whole ecosystems and help us to protect our aquatic wildlife. Doing this requires municipalities to create new protected areas and develop policies to protect pollinators.

We also need to teach more people about nature, renovate cityscapes to add natural connections to link habitats together, plant more beneficial native trees, build more rain gardens and use new technology to protect our lands, waters and wildlife.

The City of Hamilton has implemented policies that support urban biodiversity; a great start. However, we are a long way from where we need to be.

Even though humans do count more than nature, we still have a moral obligation to protect nature, recognizing that it has its own intrinsic value. It provides emotional well being, critical eco-systems services to humans such as filtering air and water, safeguarding against flooding and drought— green infrastructure supporting grey infrastructure. We also support nature-based solutions as described in more detail [here](#).

We urge you to be a champion for increased protection and restoration of biodiversity and vote on our behalf for a healthier city.

Sincerely,

Susan MacMillan

President, Flamborough Horticultural Society flamhort@hotmail.com