

Aug. 5, 2022

To the Chair and Members of the General Issues Committee

Re: Item 8.1 Climate Action Strategy

We support the positive steps in the City's draft Climate Change Action Strategy, including the "ReCharge Hamilton" Community Energy and Emissions Plan and related measures such as a Biodiversity Action Plan, Urban Forest Strategy and Stormwater Management Master Plan.

We also share the concerns about the limitations of the City's strategy as outlined by the conservation and environmental organizations in the **Restore Hamilton** plan. This plan has four excellent recommendations which would definitely bolster the City's capacity to respond most effectively to the pressing climate and biodiversity issues today.

We strongly support all of the recommendations. In particular, we highlight number four which urges the City of Hamilton to commit at least \$10 million per year to purchase and restore natural lands and waters. Such an investment would be especially helpful in improving the quality of life in Hamilton by expanding the natural lands and restored waters that make such a difference.

A recent visit to Cornwall, a city like Hamilton that has an image associated more with industry than tourism, underlined this message. We enjoyed a delightful surprise in the Rotary EcoGardens --- an inviting, scenic and vibrant green space and wetland in Lamoureux Park along the St. Lawrence River shoreline.

Eco-parks, nature trails and green space in urban areas are an essential part of the solution to climate change. Such investment can pay for itself by reducing flood damage, enhancing stormwater water management, and expanding parkland. Providing a more attractive and healthier city, it also boosts Hamilton's appeal for tourism and is money well invested.

Thank you.

Gord & Angie McNulty

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