

Good day counsellors and thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration of each delegation today including my own.

My name is Ginny Pearce I live in the Flamborough area in ward 13th. I was born and raised near the Lakeshore in Oakville then moved to Hamilton in my early 20s for my career. Now nearly 45 years later I love this City the land and the people. Here in Hamilton we have a blend of natural habitats in the countryside yet we are close to a city core with arts ,educational institutions, and diverse people groups. It is a home I value and have been proud to share with others.

I have unfortunately witnessed the slow and increased erosion of our natural habitat. I use the conservation areas several times a week and noticed more and more invasive species taking over where diverse Ontario native plants once grew. I also Volunteer in the city and see opportunity on boulevards and in small parkettes for more natural areas to make access to the shade of a tree or the beauty of a small square pollinators accessible for all.

How can these things happen? I ask the city Council to continually use the lens of healthy habitat to have a vibrant and healthy City. I am asking you to use this lens when making decisions about buildings, about land allocation and in all we do. I ask that you consider spending large sums of money to purchase and restore land for the benefit of people. I ask that you see this as an investment and not just an expenditure. I ask that you believe in the Hamilton people not "us and them," but we and we must do this right now we must not wait till next year or when we think more money is available. There are strong and energetic groups in Hamilton willing to work together we need the city our city to use the lens of healthy habitats be bold in spending for natural areas , be creative in land allocation don't wait do it now.

Thankyou

Ginny Pearce

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