

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Hamilton Aviary

Tuesday September 26, 2023

My name is Scott Crooker, I started volunteering with the Aviary in 1992. I have a brain injury as a result of an accident in my youth, through the work of Hamilton Brain Injury Services, I was referred to the Aviary to volunteer, as a form of therapy, where I've remained for the last 31 years. The aviary has been deeply important to my mental health and well-being, It has taught me responsibility, self confidence and given my life enormous purpose. When I first started, it was at Dundurn Castle, then we were at Kenilworth Street jail for a year until we moved to the RBG teaching gardens at Churchill Park, in the fall of 1995. During all of my years there, I developed strong bonds with many of the birds that I handled and interacted with, I loved all of them deeply.

Over the years, the Hamilton Aviary has played an important role in providing entertainment, serenity, joy and most importantly, education for children and adults of knowledge of bird care.

The decision by the city of Hamilton, after all of these years, is a terrible one and very shortsighted , it would be tragic to lose such an important part of Hamilton's cultural history.

Sincerely,  
Scott Crooker  
Volunteer Crew Leader, Tuesday, Wednesday

Sent from my iPad