

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Hamilton Aviary**From:** Lisa Johnston**Sent:** September 26, 2023 11:31 AM**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca**Cc:** Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>**Subject:** Hamilton Aviary

Tuesday September 26, 2023.

To the councillors, my name is Lisa Johnston, I am a volunteer with the Hamilton Aviary. I have proudly cared for the birds who reside in Churchill Park for 8 years, I have developed strong bonds over the years with the birds that I've looked after, I love them very much. Over the years, my experience and knowledge of these birds have improved exponentially. These birds thrive in our care. They are deeply loved not only by us, their stewards, but the countless numbers of people, families and children who come to see them, sing to them, read to them, loved them.

Through no fault of their own, these birds were taken out of Dundurn castle and placed in a temporary home at the old Kenilworth Street jail, and then placed in the old gardeners cottage at the teaching gardens in Churchill Park, and left to live out their lives in a shoddy old building for the last 25 years. Such as it was, all of the volunteers made the best of it, and as much as we could, made it a home for our birds. With the exception of paying for food and veterinary services by the city of Hamilton, of which we were grateful to at least have, that's where the "care" of the birds ended.

No promotion of these birds by either this city or the RBG, residing on their property, or the city of Hamilton was ever done, I find this shameful. Remarks made, on camera, by the former mayor, Fred Eisenberg was an absolutely cruel slap in the face to all of the people who volunteered and worked so hard with the birds. In case it was forgotten, he said, "just give it enough time, the problem will solve itself", when referring to the aviary. A truly

unforgivable, incredibly rude insult. It was hurtful, one that will never be forgotten. Actions such as these will not be looked upon favourably by future generations.

It was devastating to learn that the city of Hamilton and the RBG decided to pull the plug on this 96 year old institution. I found and still find this decision to be heartless, shortsighted, unconscionable, and void of any sort of example of kindness for living, breathing animals.

I am urging you to please reject the recommendation made by the public works department. These birds deserve a proper home in this city by this city.

Sincerely,
Lisa Johnston
Friday Volunteer Crew

