

Pilon, Janet

Subject: How many times?

From: Mary Love

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To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>

Subject: How many times?

Dear Mayor Horwath and City Councillors,

After all the efforts made by yourselves, the City staff, and countless Hamilton citizens like myself to win back the Hamilton Greenbelt and urban expansion lands, I can't believe we have nature-destroying developers at the gates again!

I think you have been very clear with the Province that Hamiltonians want and expect you to protect Nature, and I am calling on you to be as clear with ONE Properties, Urban Solutions and Sergio Manchia. In this case the stakes are equally high, though the acreage is lower. If not forcefully protected, we stand to lose the tributaries and headwaters of Ancaster Creek, the beautiful Garner Marsh, and all the wetlands, woodlots, hedgerows, ponds, and other natural habitat that the proposed AEGD "Madster" Transportation Plan would destroy.

We need more respect for nature, not more roads! Biodiversity is under huge threat and is much more important than saving seconds on commutes that should be achieved by public transit and by making new jobs and neighbourhoods within the urban boundary Hamilton voted to keep.

An important aspect of the societal shift we must make in this century is not just reducing the number of cars and roads, but the rampant consumerism these huge warehouses represent. Consumerism fuelled by manipulative advertising uses up too many resources, makes too much waste, and inevitably leads to proposals such as this one that threaten to ravage farmlands, wetlands, and woodlands. More and more consumer products do not make people happier and healthier; they just make a few people richer and richer! Healthier relationships with our fellow humans, the land and its creatures makes people happier and healthier. You as our city's elected officials have an opportunity to foster those healthier relationships in your public messaging, and in your decisions.

There's so much wrong with these highway and warehouse proposals! Reliance on an outdated natural heritage map from 2011 which does not identify all the wetlands, woodlots, creeks and hedgerows in this 1300 acre parcel is just plain dishonest and profoundly stupid. I saw the same thing in the developers' webinar on widening highway 6. It won't wash anymore!

This plan needs to wait until the cost to both nature and the public purse can be evaluated. Ramming roads through wetlands to accommodate industrial sprawl is no longer acceptable in the face of the climate and biodiversity crises.

I feel for you in this confusing situation because the urban boundary lands are in the process of being returned but there they are in the AEGD proposal because it was put together before the Province backed down. Surely a hold should be put on this proposal as not only its heritage markers but even its actual available land parameters are all out of date?

To paraphrase a famous song Pete Seeger loved to sing, Hamiltonians won't stand for this:

Where have all the turtles (hedgerows, marshes, barn owls, farmlands) gone, long time passing?

Where have all the turtles gone, long time ago?

Where have all the turtles gone? Gone for warehouses/highways, every one,

When will they/we ever learn?

As an 8 year old child's sign at a recent Dundas rally said,

"Nature is worth more than money."

Hamilton young people are counting on you to say No! to these kinds of massive developments that rob them of precious and irreplaceable farmland and animal and plant species forever.

We are all treaty people, and I count on you to honour the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt covenant. Stop developers from taking much more than their share of wealth from these Indigenous lands and from dirtying the dish!

Respectfully,

Mary Love

Ward 7

Sent from my iPhone