

**Bates, Tamara**

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**Subject:** FW: Development on Hamilton Wetlands,

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**From:** Wordy Birdies < >

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 9:07 PM

**To:** Bates, Tamara <Tamara.Bates@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>

**Subject:** Development on Hamilton Wetlands,

Dear Clerk and Councilors of Hamilton,

I am writing to you most urgently to immediately cease giving a discount on development charges to developers who build on farmlands and wetlands.

Did you know that wetlands are vital to a community's resilience in the face of climate change? Wetland habitats are important for mitigation of catastrophic effects of extreme weather by storing water in times of flooding, and preserving surface water in times of drought. Wetlands are effective carbon sinks and offer natural and effective filtration of runoff. In fact, maintaining wetlands can lead to cost savings when compared to manmade infrastructure solutions. World-wide communities are realizing the importance of wetlands are investing effort and money to restore damaged wetlands. In fact, the government of Ontario is providing funding under the Wetlands Conservation Partner program to restore and enhance wetlands across the province. Since the program was launched in 2020, \$20 million has been invested and in the first two years of the program alone, and estimated \$6 million of flooding damage was already avoided. Several wetlands are being restored in Burlington under this program.

Wetland habitats are extremely important for preservation of biodiversity, urgently required in our time, and also offer opportunities for citizens to relax and connect with nature.

Considering the economic, biological and social significance of wetlands, Hamilton would ideally move to disallow any further development on wetlands.

It is certainly shortsighted to allow development and even offer a development charge discount to developers who build on this land.

If Hamilton does not stop such development, then at the very least,

- (a) Any developer who is successful in having their lands added to the Urban Area by forcing the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundary should pay the full costs of urbanization
- (b) Hamilton taxpayers should be fully consulted before the final vote in April since any discounts on industrial DCs will be transferred to taxpayers.
- (c) The new DC rate of \$41.48 per square foot should be applied to all industrial development on greenfields.
- (d) A further Industrial DC increase should be applied to developers who build on unserved farmland where there is no existing infrastructure, compared to those that build on brownfields within the urban area where infrastructure already exists.
- (e) Any developer who is successful in having their lands added to the Urban Area by forcing the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundary must pay the full costs of urbanization.

Regards,

Christina Salamon

Oakville