

From: Lyn Folkes
Sent: April 28, 2025 9:59 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Submission for April 29th Planning Committee

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To the City of Hamilton Clerk,

Please add this submission to the April 29th Planning Committee agenda item 8.1.

As a taxpayer and a resident of Hamilton who is very concerned about our changing climate, I am devastated to read that 632 mature trees are in jeopardy due to a development in Ancaster. This is no better than Premier Ford allowing the cutting of hundreds of trees in Toronto to build a spa -- completely irresponsible! The most shocking fact is that this area is being cleared to make room for only 17 houses on large lots -- exactly the kind of housing we shouldn't be building at all! I assume that our Premier's government is behind this most thoughtless proposal.

There has to be a point where Hamilton can sue the province for a lack of democratic treatment. This development proposal slows the movement to build more houses faster! It goes against every climate recommendation from the best climate advisory groups in the world. It makes us look like we don't care one bit about the world or our children's future. This is the kind of ignorant proposal that makes me feel stressed and sick. We have to say a firm, "NO WAY!", to cutting mature trees which belong to Hamilton Region.

This kind of attack on our threatened natural resources should already be illegal anywhere in Ontario but very unfortunately, we have a great adversary who denies the global climate emergency at the helm today. Hamilton clearly needs stronger laws to protect wetlands, forests and pollinator habitats. We have to fight the province and mitigate any development they force on our city to lessen the damage to our health and biodiversity.

I know Hamilton Council is trying very hard to be a champion in climate action but we're not doing enough if a forest with hundreds of mature trees can just be cleared. I can't believe this is allowed to happen today (like for a spa in Toronto!) and I hope you will do everything in your power to save the trees we need to lessen flooding, lower asthma in our children, clean the air we breathe and make our neighbourhoods more livable.

I don't need to attach the hundreds of studies that support all that I've said above. It is all common knowledge now and in the news regularly. Everyone knows what we have to do to address the climate emergency, and you have the policies you need to use now -- they are written in the BAP you approved in the fall. I strongly recommend following that guide, so

please incorporate all of its recommendations into all of the city's policies and work on the ground from now on.

We need more climate action to help our residents become resilient to the damage that the changing climate is bringing and will continue to bring increasingly every year. All of the extremes we are witnessing now are a result of climate change - flooding, drought, temperature changes of over 20 degrees for one day to the next, wetter and drier seasonal periods that don't match our traditional seasons, unpredictable weather, more damaging storms, etc. We need more protection from these stress-filled events - we need more climate action.

So, please don't let developers clearcut a forest in Hamilton Region without reasonable cause. These are very mature valuable trees which sequester much carbon from the air here - we need these trees today! And we also need more affordable housing that doesn't waste so much land and destroy natural resources.

Thank you for giving us a chance to voice our concerns and listen. Democracy is becoming harder and harder to find in Ontario with the Ford government in power. Thank goodness for our great municipal government in Hamilton!! I trust you will do your best to mitigate this situation and I wish you the best in doing so on our behalf.

Sincerely,
Lyn Folkes & family