

## 7.2 (a)(b)



P.O. Box 89052  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8S 4R5

April 29, 2025

To Planning Committee members:

Hamilton Naturalists' Club's (HNC) staff and countless volunteers have planted thousands of trees across the city, contributing to cleaner air, cooler streets, increased biodiversity, and a more livable environment for everyone.

On behalf of the HNC I'm writing to express opposition to the proposal outlined in Item 8.2 on the April 29 Planning Committee agenda, which would allow for the removal of 632 trees at 387- 409 Hamilton Drive in Ancaster. This plan would clear-cut a significant woodlot, identified on Hamilton's Official Plan as a Core area—home to heritage trees and species at risk, for the construction of just 17 single-family homes.

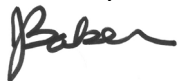
Hamiltonians are acutely aware of how essential urban greenery is to public health. Trees help lower rates of respiratory illness, reduce the effects of extreme heat, and improve overall mental and physical well-being. As an organization deeply involved in environmental protection and restoration, HNC also understands how irreplaceable mature trees are in terms of their ecological value—something that can take decades to recover once lost.

This application seems counter to the City's stated environmental goals and commitments made through the Biodiversity Action Plan, Urban Forest Strategy, and Climate Change Action Plan. It also has our volunteers questioning their tree planting and other efforts to protect the urban forest when they see a whole forest cut down to build a few houses.

We ask the Planning Committee to reject this application and to focus on denser development that does not need to cut down a forest to make it happen.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I hope you will stand with the many volunteers who are working hard every day to build a greener, healthier Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Jen Baker  
General Manager

Hamilton Naturalists' Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, appreciation and conservation of our wild plants and animals.