

Presentation March 28 2007

To say that I am disappointed in council is an understatement. I am not disappointed for me, but for my grand children and their children. As I feel they have been let down.

Four months ago you were elected to council and four months ago I attended every candidates meeting for mayor and for councilors except for one. At those meetings, Preservation of Green Space and especially General Brock was high on the public agenda. Most of you agreed that, yes, Green Space was important. On review of your Budget 07 however, I noted that there are no funds allocated for saving parklands. Many of you know how strongly people of Burlington feel about their parks, their open space, and their recreation and leisure facilities. That is the reason they chose to live here. If you haven't heard this from your constituents, it is because they trust you, and are under the false impression that their parks are around them forever for them to enjoy. (They would never give our parks to developers,..... would they?)

We trust you. And we trust the municipal staff, to know that they are working to the guiding principals of the Official Plan, to ensure that all reasonable measures are employed to ensure the resources communities value most are maintained.

Much of this trust began during the election process when we, the voters, listened to what each of you stated, what you believed in, and what you promised to do.

I would like now to review your responses to the Questionnaire submitted to you

during the run up to the election in November. The question was, “If elected would you support a Park Preservation Fund through the tax base as a city budget item.”?

Councillor Craven. You said “ Possibly. This idea is consistent with some of the other City Reserve Funds. But, I would need more information about the budget implications before being certain.

Councilor Thoem. You said, “I feel totally at ease going off trail, getting scratched, bitten and dirty exploring woodlands, fields and waterways. So my heart lies firmly in green spaces, the more natural the better”.

Councillor Taylor, You said. “We already have a Park Dedication Fund and a publicly accessible Council and Capital budget process that already addresses these issues.”

Councillor Dennison. You said “ All areas of the community need adequate green space within reasonable proximity to their homes. A strategic land purchase funding envelope needs to be created as part of the base budget and funded annually. We should leave no stone unturned as a potential funding source for saving green space and adding more green space, not tax dollars”

Councillor Goldring. You said. “I think this idea does make sense. I strongly support investigating the idea and getting staff input as to how this fund could work and what the financial ramifications would be.”

Councillor D’Amelio. You said, “ We already have a park dedication reserve

fund and Council has the ability to put tax dollars into this fund. It is always a consideration.

Mayor Jackson. You said “It is my intention to continue working with local community groups to retain existing green spaces at risk, the best example of this is the General Brock property My platform as mayor includes a strong voice on education / property issues. Particularly pressing the provincial government to build needed schools in growth areas, and to ensure that when school boards declare school sites surplus, they give sufficient time to our City to acquire them for park lands. This will be a personal priority.”

People trusted you, our City Council, with their homes and their city when they voted for you.

Trust is built on your accountability to the commitments you have made.

As you consider all the issues / challenges before you with the far reaching capital budget and strategic plan, please remember this trust. You all know what the citizens of Burlington want. Please make decisions that include the preservation of General Brock Parklands and a strategic plan that will protect future parklands at risk in your wards. This for the Quality of Life for our communities and for the future of our children...

Please don't let them down.

Ian Grant

