



SAVE GENERAL BROCK PARKLAND COMMITTEE

November 4, 2007

Dr Peter George
President
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8

Dear Dr. George:

The Save General Brock Parkland Committee of Burlington recently became aware of McMaster University's decision to withdraw from the proposed campus in Burlington's downtown. Our understanding is that the primary reason for the change is the fact that the core location would not support sufficient space for future building expansion.

As you may recall, in the spring of 2005, representatives from McMaster (Linda Axford, Bob McNutt and Lorna Higdon-Norrie), met with our group expressing interest in the General Brock location as an option for a future home. Minutes from the City of Burlington Report on this meeting of May 18, 2005 said that "The team working on the City and McMaster University partnership to establish a university presence in Burlington is extremely excited about the opportunities the General Brock High School site may provide for this post-secondary initiative." Our group particularly appreciated hearing how McMaster devotes a significant amount of time and energy in establishing, maintaining, and enhancing community relations.

With this in mind, we thought it timely to write to you to inquire about McMaster's current interest in the General Brock site. It is our understanding that the property owners (Halton District School Board) have interim plans to make use of part of the site but Director W. Joudrie has indicated that any interested parties should make this interest known as they explore their future needs and planning options.

Furthermore, we are currently awaiting confirmation from the school board about next steps with the site disposition process in regards to Section 13 of the Education Act. The HDSB first declared the property surplus in 2003. The Act states that if a School Board has not "disposed" of the property within three years of the expiration of the 90 day period, the process must begin again and

the property must be made available to an interested educational institution of Ontario before it goes to the open market.

If this is confirmed to be the case (and we have reason to believe it will be), clearly there is a very real opportunity of consideration for McMaster here.

The 26 acre (10.5 h) property at General Brock includes large areas of open space, sports fields, an abundance of mature trees, a 126,000 sq ft building and a central location in one of the most beautiful areas of the city. Its proximity to the waterfront, downtown, QEW and local amenities are all pluses and yet the peacefulness of this parkland area gives it a character that is becoming increasingly hard to find in any city.

The Save General Brock Parkland group is a recognized City of Burlington Advisory Committee. We have been working together for over four years now to search for an innovative solution for the use of the General Brock site that would best serve the interests of the environment and the people of Burlington for years to come.

Citizens have supported and enjoyed the General Brock parklands for over 40 years and we believe they would like to see them maintained as educational lands and green space. Our Committee would welcome the opportunity to meet again with McMaster to revisit this opportunity and explore what could be a mutually beneficial “fit”.

Best Regards,

The Save General Brock Parkland Committee

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