



SAVE GENERAL BROCK PARKLAND COMMITTEE

October 18, 2007

Dear Mr. Joudrie and Trustees of the Halton District School Board,

We are writing to you to provide an update on our Committee efforts since last spring and more importantly to request a response to our outstanding inquiry of June 22, 2007.

Since our Committee presentations to you on May 2, 2007 our group has remained dedicated to the critical issue of parkland preservation at the General Brock/Gary Allan School location. We have submitted input to both your School Board and the City of Burlington's strategic planning processes. Our Committee members delegated at City Council meetings including the City Budget planning meeting where we urged members to include financial support for future land acquisition at General Brock.

We have received a letter of support regarding the importance of urban green space preservation from the Nature Conservancy of Canada and have made attempts to connect with MPP J. Savoline regarding this issue. It was unfortunate that the playfields were not available this spring/summer to many Burlington based sports groups as they had been for the past 40 years but we are pleased that the Burlington Women's and Men's Oldtimer Soccer clubs were able to secure a soccer field at General Brock for their annual charity fundraiser held on October 6, 2007.

Perhaps of greatest significance is that we have continued to hear from the citizens of Burlington about this important issue. Their message continues to be of strong support to ensure the future of this property includes the preservation of green space and playfields for current and future generations to enjoy and benefit from.

As part of our ongoing efforts to search for potential solutions and keep the public informed of the status of the site, we posed an important question regarding clarification of the Education Act at the April 24, 07 meeting with City staff, Councilor Dennison, Mayor Jackson, our Committee members, Trustee Danielli and yourself, Mr. Joudrie in attendance.

For review, it is our understanding that the Education Act, Section 13 states that: *If a board does not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of real property in respect of which a proposal must be issued under section 3 or 4 within three years of the expiration of the 90-day period referred to in subsection 10 (1) and the board wishes to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property, the board shall issue another proposal under section 3 or 4, as the case may be. O. Reg. 444/98, s. 13.*

Thus, given the fact that the HDSB deemed the General Brock property as surplus in 2003, and as confirmed by our legal consultation, this policy would then apply. We therefore, and further to our June 22 email correspondence, again request your confirmation and comments on this. If you would disagree, we would appreciate being advised of your reasons for disagreement. If you agree and the disposition process is therefore to begin again and the property will therefore be made available to other educational institutions of Ontario, we of course would support the process and offer our assistance in any way that we can.

Consistent with our goal to preserve the parklands at General Brock, we remain dedicated to working together with you, the HDSB as property owners, and also with the City of Burlington. We need to find a solution for the use of these valued parklands that best meets the interests and well being not only of the environment but also the people of Burlington as a whole.

The Save General Brock Parkland Committee looks forward to receiving your response to our inquiry. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss this and any other updates you may have on this issue.

Respectfully,

The Save General Brock Parkland Committee

Cc: Mayor Cam Jackson
Councilor Jack Dennison
Mr. Tim Commisso
MPP Joyce Savoline