

# CONLEY'S CORNER

## Ward 9 Newsletter

Summer 2016

### Ward 9 continues to be a busy community

It has been a year-and-a-half since I was elected in Ward 9, and I thought it was a good idea to give you an update on what has happened in that time period.

As you can see, construction is going on in upper and lower Stoney Creek, which has caused concern for all of us. But residents should be proud of how they have handled it.

Much of it is completed but there is more to come.

Road safety, as always, is a big concern of mine and to this end, we have installed calming devices, such as lowering speed limits to 40 km,

stop lights, stop signs and bike lanes to try and create safer roadways throughout the ward, this was especially done at school crossings, and we are always looking at making our streets safer. Although much has been done we will be continuing over the next two years.

The following articles are intended to be a summary of many of the projects we have started and/or finished.

If you have any comments or ideas, just let me know and I will try to get you the answers you need.



### Saturdays in the Creek

Council approved my motion to provide a \$6,000 funding boost to Saturdays in the Creek. Event organizers received \$2,000 in 2015, and will receive \$2,000 in 2016 and 2017 from the Newalta Reserve account.

Downtown Stoney Creek BIA members created the event in 2014 to promote the Olde Town, to encourage residents to support local merchants, and to create community spirit. The first Saturdays in the Creek were held in July 2014. Saturdays in the Creek was a big success in 2015 and we have already enjoyed the artisans, garage sales, vendors, car show and music on event days this year. If you haven't made it yet, be sure to check it out.

The event is on the second Saturday of each month from May to September and on the first Saturday of October.

### Road will ease upper Stoney Creek traffic

We should have some welcome relief to traffic in upper Stoney Creek this fall.

The four-lane Upper Red Hill Valley Parkway is scheduled to open around Labour Day, and should help ease traffic on the roads leading from the parkway to upper Stoney Creek and Binbrook.

The road will stretch from the Red Hill Valley Parkway ramp at Stone Church Road south to Rymal Road.

The project will also

include a bridge or ecological passageway built south of Highland Road West. The passageway will allow wildlife and pedestrians to pass under the new road. There will be two entry points along the new road for local traffic and stoplights at Highland Road, Rymal Road and along the new parkway.

An expansion of this parkway from Rymal Road to Twenty Road is also planned for 2021, if the funding can be secured.



Photo by Brenda Denyes

### Remembering the Battle

I was honoured to attend the unveiling of a graveside plaque in memory of Isaac Corman, at the Stoney Creek Municipal Cemetery. While he was a temporary prisoner of the Americans during the War of 1812, Corman learned the American password, which he passed on to his brother-in-law, Billy Green. Green took the information to the British troops. With this information, the British decided on a night attack on the American encampment in Stoney Creek. The short but fierce night battle was the Battle of Stoney Creek. The result was a major British victory and the Americans retreated.

## Lower Stoney Creek road improvements

The following roads in lower Stoney Creek will be shaved and repaved: Bonita Drive, Jasper Drive, Brentwood Drive, Loma Drive, Berkley Place, Terrace Drive and Hill Place, as well as Mountain Road from Jones Road to Gemma Court.

### King Street reconstruction

The nine-month, \$6.5-million reconstruction of King Street finished in mid-December. The project included replacement of the water main, sidewalks, curbs, street lights and roadway along King from Applewood Avenue to Battlefield Drive, as well as rehabilitation of the bridge on King Street near Elm Avenue. Crews also installed traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing signal at the King and Battlefield Drive.

Stoney Creek's Wesroc Construction Ltd. conducted the

work and did a great job. I was very satisfied with their workmanship.

Thank you to all of the business owners and residents in lower Stoney Creek. I know it was an inconvenience for you and I appreciate your patience.

### Centennial Parkway

The \$7-million, two-year project on Centennial Parkway between King and Barton Streets was completed in the fall of 2015. Crews installed sewers, a new trunk water main, and reconstructed the road, including curbs and sidewalks.

Work on Upper Centennial Parkway is expected to be finished in June 2017. It involves tunnelling the trunk sanitary sewer from Green Mountain Road to Golf Club Road to accommodate growth in upper Stoney Creek and to service the Binbrook area.

## Splash pads coming to upper Stoney Creek

After a long wait, upper Stoney Creek residents will be happy to know that two splash pads will be built in 2017. One will be located at Maplewood Park by Mountain Albion School, north of Highland Road West, and the other will be at Heritage Green Park off of First Road West. When they are opened, Ward 9 will have a total of three pads, including the other at Green Acres park.

Half of the cost for the splash pad at Maplewood Park will be funded by the Heritage Green Trust Fund.

## Dog park a paws-itive hit

The off-leash dog park is located on First Road West near Green Mountain Road and has been open for about a year now.

The park is about 4.5 acres in size and is completely fenced in. It is very popular with residents from both lower and upper Stoney Creek. The dog park would not have been possible without the generous gift of more than \$400,000 from the Heritage Green Trust Fund.

## Ash tree replacement

The city is in the midst of a 10-year, \$26.2-million plan, established in 2012, to cut down and replace ash trees throughout Hamilton. Emerald ash borer is a destructive beetle that has killed many ash trees in Ontario and the northeastern US. Infested trees have been found throughout Hamilton.

Crews are removing one-tenth of the city's 23,000 trees each year. Each one will be replaced with a non-ash species. Ward 9 contains 1,120 ash trees, 12 per cent of the city's total. If you have an affected tree on the boulevard in front of your property, the city will remove it and replace it for free. If you have an ash tree on your own property, it is your responsibility to have it removed. If you have any questions about this program, you can call 905-546-CITY.

# Working toward expansion of Red Hill Valley Parkway

Up to 59,000 vehicles travel on the Red Hill Valley Parkway each day. That is about 10,000 more than when it first opened, and it's only going to get busier as more developments are built. The parkway was built with the capacity to be widened to six lanes, and I believe this needs to be done sooner rather than later. I introduced a motion at a public works committee meeting requesting staff conduct a feasibility study on the project. I had also proposed that we ask the federal government to share in the cost of expanding the roads, but it was voted down at Council.

Council did approve a feasibility study on expanding both roads. This study is expected to be ready soon. It will provide recommendations on the

timeframe for expansion based on factors including changing demographics and travel patterns.

The City's engineering department estimated the cost to expand both the Red Hill and Lincoln Alexander parkways ranges from \$50 million to \$100 million. The City's 2007 transportation master plan identified 2031 as the year when the Red Hill and Lincoln Alexander parkways, Highway 403 and the Burlington Skyway are projected to have a "poor level of service" and be in need of improvements. But it is obvious this needs to happen sooner.

It won't happen overnight. But I assure you I am working to speed up the process and get this done.

## Bike lane coming to Isaac Brock Drive

The street markings on Isaac Brock Drive in upper Stoney Creek have not been re-done for many years and are badly needed. In discussions with the traffic department, we are going to upgrade the markings and make the street a safer place on which to ride, drive and walk.

The City plans to repaint pavement markings on Isaac Brock this summer. The planned markings will include:

- a through lane in each direction for auto traffic
- on-street parking along the south curb between Kennard Street and First Road West
- bike lanes along both sides of the street between Mud Street and First Road West
- ladder crossings for pedestrians

The planned markings will provide for a convenient flow of traffic on the street. The bike lanes will connect to planned bike lanes on Echovalley Drive on the north side of Mud, connecting to Heritage Green Sports Park and the multi-use trail network along Felker's Creek. For information, contact my office or Daryl Bender in Traffic Engineering, 905-546-2424, ext. 2066 or [Daryl.Bender@hamilton.ca](mailto:Daryl.Bender@hamilton.ca).

# Rymal Road improvements

Construction finished in early December on Rymal Road East between Dartnall and Fletcher roads. The road has been expanded to five lanes. The work also included water main installation on Rymal between Nebo and Dartnall roads, as well as new sidewalks, street lighting and traffic signal improvements. In 2018, the work will continue on Rymal Road east from Fletcher Road to Upper Centennial Parkway.

### **Stoplight at Rymal and Second Rd. W.**

A stop light will be installed this year at the intersection of Rymal Road and Second Road West. This was planned for 2018, but as traffic increases, and with more development south of Rymal, this light is a necessity now. This will allow for motorists to make a safe left turn on to Rymal, and will also improve pedestrian safety.

## New neighbours

A new housing development will be built between Winterberry and Upper Mount Albion Road.

There will also be a shopping centre with a grocery store, restaurants and other retail stores built west of Upper Mount Albion and north of Highland Road West.

Losani Homes will be constructing several hundred homes between Upper Mount Albion and the new Upper Red Hill Valley Parkway and Highland and Rymal roads.

Empire Homes is building townhomes and detached homes in the area bounded by Green Mountain Road and First Road West and Upper Centennial Parkway.

Rosehaven Homes is building townhomes, semi-detached and detached homes between Highland Road West and Mud Street and First Road West and Upper Centennial Parkway.



## Getting in the spirit

The Re-Enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek is always a highlight of the year. We get to experience the battle that was a turning point of the War of 1812 and mingle with early 19th century settlers and soldiers. This year, I dressed the part, along with fellow Stoney Creek councillors, Brenda Johnson, left, and Maria Pearson, right.

## New Conservation area

The Hamilton Conservation Authority is planning a new park on Stoney Creek's east mountain. The HCA purchased a 71.4-hectare portion of Greenbelt-protected land between the Dofasco Trail and Green Mountain Road between First and Second roads east.

As a HCA director, I was part of the team that identified the property for purchase. I am thrilled about the opportunity this gives us to preserve this land.

The purchase is being funded with the help of \$4 million from the Heritage Green Community Trust and the City of Hamilton Royalty Trust.

# Making Highland Road safer

Council approved my motion for a year-long pilot project to install bike lanes along Highland Road West, along with a reduction of the speed limit to 40 km/hr.

Because it is a pilot project, we can observe and measure how it is working for all involved. The new bike lane is going to be established from Winterberry Road to Upper Centennial Parkway. The bike lane will narrow the road and hopefully slow down traffic. It will provide a safe place for cyclists and should improve safety for motorists and pedestrians too.

When the pilot project ends, staff will review the results of the program. If successful, the bike lanes will remain. I believe this change will have a positive effect on Highland Road West and mean a safer community for everyone.

Also in the coming year, Highland Road West will be urbanized from Winterberry Drive to Pritchard Road. This will include sidewalks, streetlights and sanitary sewers. The plan was to close Highland Road West for a year to complete the work. I am pleased to say the work will instead be staged in sections.

Contact me with questions or concerns at 905-546-2703 or [doug.conley@hamilton.ca](mailto:doug.conley@hamilton.ca), or my assistant Rob Ribaric at 905-546-3210 or [robert.ribaric@hamilton.ca](mailto:robert.ribaric@hamilton.ca).

## Volunteers help local conservation area flourish

In the fall, I joined the Friends of the Eramosa Karst, and 300 other volunteers to create a 600-metre hedgerow along Rymal Road between the church at Fletcher Road and Second Road West.

We planted 900 native trees and shrubs to provide a visual buffer from traffic and construction along Rymal, while helping stop garbage from blowing into the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area.

The project was made possible by a \$76,000

donation from the Heritage Green Community Trust and Hamilton Royalty Trust.

The feeder lands' management plan will also formalize two footpaths running from Richdale Drive and Second Road West, add an access from Highland Road, and create a one-kilometre trail leading to an interpretive station that honours Friends of the Eramosa Karst, which was formed to advocate for the conservation area's protection.

## New sidewalk on Winterberry Drive

A new sidewalk will be built on the west side of Winterberry Drive between Old Mud and Mud streets and a right turn lane will be added. This will improve safety for pedestrians walking in the area and those who are waiting for the bus in that location. The right turn lane should also ease congestion at that busy spot.