



Dundas Works Roundtable #1: **DUNDAS VALUES**

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 St. Paul's United Church 7-9pm Minutes Rev.1 - July 12th, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A. WHAT WE VALUE

We value the natural setting that Dundas is in. We value the **escarpment** which contains our community and limits sprawl. We value the abundance of **trees** within Dundas. We love the fact that **nature** is on our doorstep throughout the **Dundas Valley**. Waking up to the sound of **birds singing**.

We value the sense of **history** that you feel in Dundas. We love the **small town** atmosphere, the sense of **community** here. Independent **owner operated** businesses. The feel of King Street. The **Dundas Driving Park** is a gem. It's a **walkable** and **bikeable** community. We are a **cultural hub** with a rich arts and cultural community. Beautiful **churches**. We have something for every age group here.

We feel **the love** in this community. People **say hello**. Schools are in the heart of Dundas. Welcoming, accepting, **caring for neighbours**. Invested and engaged. We love the Victoria Day Fireworks and walking away with the crowd afterwards. It feels like home...people know you on the street. Churches are involved in the community. We feel **safe**. A rich history of **activism**.

B. WHAT WE ENVISION FOR THE FUTURE

Completion of the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System. Densification without high rises.... **Intensification with imagination**. Smart development that preserves **character** and keeps us wanting to live here, and avoids the loss of **key infrastructure**. Excellent **public transit** with better access to McMaster. We need to work on the **affordability** problem especially for those buying a first house. Better seniors facilities. Better **recreational facilities** and programming for all ages. **Schools** improved and remain at the heart of our **neighbourhoods**. Attention to **aesthetics** as we develop. Developers should not have too much say. An official Secondary Plan. More **sidewalk cafes**. Attention given to improving sidewalks. A centre for **innovation**. A better landscaped entrance from Cootes Drive.

We have the potential to be **a complete community**.

We should grow slowly so we can have a say. *If you appreciate something -use it!* Progress comes from our **participation**...enculture a speaking tradition. Working together to **achieve goals**. We need to have **effective leadership** that can **communicate** our desires to City Hall. More opportunities to work in Dundas. Services for people that may fall through the gaps. **Festivals** need to be updated to be **relevant**, current and reflect the character of Dundas. Create **alliances** with other area communities. Involve **young people** in planning for the future.

DETAILED MINUTES:

Jim Sweetman (moderator), Tim Leslie, Bob James, Michelle Chin, Margot Carnahan
Approximately 40 in attendance, sign up sheet for names and e-mails provided

Welcome and overview of roundtable format with discussion topic:

What do you value in Dundas? and How do you envision Dundas in 20 years?

-Thank you to St. Paul's Church for providing space for the roundtable meeting -acknowledgement that Dundas on Haudenosaunee land

-We encourage positive ideas and thinking about shared public places and building a shared community vision for the future of Dundas

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Sweetman

What do you value about Dundas? I can meet all my needs – food, shelter, water, friendship – in Dundas. I can also meet most of my wants - culture, art, entertainment, recreation, volunteering opportunities – in Dundas too.

What do you want to see for Dundas in 20 years? I want to see Dundas become “younger” and more able to meet the needs of families as well as seniors. I want to see Dundas become more resilient and self-sufficient in food and energy.

Margot Carnahan

To maintain a strong community with a strong voice at Hamilton Council, Dundas residents need to advocate with a group voice. Although the internet and e-mail allow us unlimited connectivity, the value of meeting in public to exchange ideas and create consensus are crucial to the social aspect of community planning.

Bob James

One of the things I value about Dundas is the individual and collective responsibility we take for common public spaces. We need to maintain and increase the availability on schools, churches, sidewalks, squares, laneways, and of course parks - all of which allow us to gather in common and share our experiences.

Michelle Chin

I value the eclectic, diverse and amazing people in Dundas and the meaningful human connections. I believe that this directly results from our beautiful, compact and walkable infrastructure. Dundas' mixed use downtown gives people of all ages the freedom and independence to go about their daily lives, and while doing so allows for meaningful face to face encounters. The infrastructure, by its nature, CREATES the social connection.

Tim Leslie

Building a vision is not only about the outcome, but it is also about the process. As we discuss our values, ideas, and visions back and forth we learn and empathize with each other and build strong community bonds.

A. WHAT WE VALUE

Natural World

- green space/conservation/trails, hiking, fishing
- **bordered by the escarpment** which inhibits sprawl
- Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System
- the **abundance of trees**
- *Dundas Valley Conservation Authority was started by private citizens - opportunities to fish*

Built World

- appreciate the **history**
- Small town atmosphere, sense of community, *peaceful, healthy environment,*
- **walkability**, public spaces, heritage/old buildings
- *unique small independent owner operated businesses (no big box stores)*
- we are a *cultural hub*
- *Dundas is a unique small town, a gem and a beacon for Hamilton*
- *proximity to metropolitan amenities and to rural country*
- beautiful church buildings
- *the Dundas Driving Park is a gem*
- *we value our youth, our students - schools are the heart of a town and need to be protected*
- *walkable and bikeable*
- *waking up to the sound of birds singing*

Community

- *we feel the love in this community*
- *very welcoming here*
- *people in Dundas say hello to each other as they pass by - schools are the heart of our community*
- *Dundas has heart and vibrancy in a real meaningful sense, it is not touristy or gentrified*
- strong arts community, heritage
- *welcoming and accepting, caring for neighbours,*
- *people feel invested and engaged*
- *non judgemental atmosphere*
- *love the Victoria Day Fireworks and walking away in the crowd afterwards*
- Dundas is better now than in the past- more commercial viability
- community engagement, many strong community-minded members
- *many leaders and activists here*
- it feels like home, people know you on the street
- Churches do good work integrating community
- *a speaking tradition, we welcome and introduce ourselves, we say hello, we talk to each other*
- *association of churches and service clubs that connect with the community*
- *Dundas is progressive yet the town character and people seem to be from a simpler time*
- *big things and little things, they all matter*
- *operates on a human scale*
- *if we appreciate something, we must use and support it*
- *small town interaction*
- *safe sense of community*
- *the Dundas Star News which helps to communicate, educate and inform*

B. WHAT WE ENVISION FOR THE FUTURE

Natural World

- *completion of the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System*

Built World

- *improved bikability*
- *developers should not have too much say*
- *Densification without high rises (perhaps 3 story walk ups and retrofitting existing buildings is required to support the core and keep it vibrant)*
- *Smart development- that preserve character and keeps us wanting to live hereand to avoid the loss of key infrastructure*
- *intensification with imagination - i.e. allow home offices in garages, allow development in alleyways*
- *excellent public transit, active street life,*
- *a Secondary Plan for Dundas under the Official City Plan*
- *increased multicultural development*
- *Housing that is affordable for every age group, including young people just starting out- human scale affordable housing*
- *dedication to aesthetic development*
- *sidewalks could be widened in certain places and improved*
- *don't change narrow sidewalks on residential streets*
- *we need to work on the affordability problem*
- *a centre for innovation*
- *easier access to McMaster without a car*
- *need senior centre like Sackville Senior Centre*
- *a better landscaped entrance to the town from Cootes Drive*
- *more sidewalk cafes like in Europe and US*
- *better transit*

Community

- *the boundary of the escarpment protects us and we are responsible to protect what's in it*
- *we have the potential to be a complete town*
- *grow slowly so we can have a say*
- *if you appreciate something -use it!*
- *progress comes from our participation -enculture a speaking tradition*
- *if Hamilton considered Dundas a gem*
- *we need to have effective leadership that can communicate our desires to City Hall*
- *need to keep the town vibrant to attract young families and all age groups, not only a retirement community*
- *everyone should feel **welcomed** including outsiders*
- *need plenty of activities and programming for youth, seniors and every age group - more opportunities to work in Dundas*
- *services for people that may fall through the gaps*
- *becoming a beacon to others of people who live a balanced lifestyle*
- *strong political representation, leadership, citizen involvement for sustainable development, working together to achieve goals*
- *Festivals need to be updated to be relevant, current and reflect the character of Dundas*
- *create alliances with other Hamilton communities to encourage each other to create visions. This could send a message to the City of Hamilton that communities want to promote and showcase the uniqueness of*

each area

- *identifying and reaching out to those that might not be connected, that the City of Hamilton is able to understand and support Dundas values, both measurable and otherwise*
- need to involve young people in planning for the future

Thank-you for participating!

Thank you to all for attending and sharing your thoughts! A summary of this roundtable meeting will be posted on the Dundas Works website. All are welcome to leave their e-mail address on the sign in sheet. This was the first of a number of community roundtable discussions aiming to build a vision for Dundas. Please invite anyone in Dundas you think would like to contribute to this endeavour! The next roundtable is planned by Dundas Works on Tuesday September 19, 2017, at St.Paul's United Church, at 7:00 pm.