



*Dundas Works Roundtable #2: VALUING PUBLIC PLACES IN DUNDAS  
Tuesday, September 18th, 2018 7-9pm St Paul's Church Minutes Rev.1 - July 12th, 2018*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

*“Places are environments in which people have invested meaning over time...Everyone has the right to live in a great place. More importantly, everyone has the right to making the place where they already live great.” (Project for Public Spaces)*

### We Value OUR PUBLIC PLACES

If we want to have a say in what Dundas will be, we have to begin with an inventory of what we have, and why it is important.

**Natural Areas & Parks...** We value that our parks **offer something for everybody**. We value the memories of using Dundas' parks and natural areas with our children, and we want to **protect and enhance** them for generations to come. We value the ability to hike, paddle, bird watch, mountain bike, **right on our doorstep**.

**Buildings & Public Spaces...** KING STREET is a **social anchor** for Dundas, where you can meet people in a variety of settings. We value its unique shops **where shopkeepers care**, a friendly atmosphere, a unique vibrancy. Downtown Dundas has a distinct artistic diversity. We value our **Historic Architecture**, where we **repurpose old buildings** rather than tear them down. We value our **walkable elementary schools**, but grieve the loss of a high school in the core.

**Connectors...A network of STREETS with SIDEWALKS....**The grid layout of historic Dundas allows **multiple routes** for walking and driving, so we can meet and see people casually....Walking is interesting because every house is different and you know exactly where you are.

**...interlaced with PATHWAYS, LANEWAYS & TRAILS...**All over Dundas are lovely little connector lanes and trails. **...connected to PARKING LOTS behind the scenes** ...What helps make King Street work so well are the 7 parking lots on Park and Hatt Streets....where people find their way to the shops and businesses on King St through small pedestrian passages...

## IDEAS & POTENTIAL ACTIONS

Just get up and do it ...You've got to protect it for the future

**Natural Areas & Parks...**WEBSTER'S/TEW'S/DUNDAS PEAK TRAIL LOOP...would like the trail **to be rebuilt** and be continuous again. New TRAILHEAD...From Old Dundas Train Station Site: to the Websters / Tews gorges New SHUTTLE FROM DOWNTOWN... Originate shuttle from downtown parking, then hikers **will come back** and enjoy the shops and restaurants of Dundas. DRIVING PARK...More use for events. SPENCER CREEK TRAIL...muddy, **needs upgrading**... COOTES AND DESJARDINS CANAL...Need places to sit and watch the water...needs new WATER TREATMENT PLANT

**Buildings & Public Spaces...** Spaces in Dundas that are **under utilized may be at risk**...CLOSE OFF KING STREET BETWEEN CROSS AND SYDENHAM... temporarily (or permanently) to **make a town square**. OUTDOOR MAP needed to point out Dundas historical spots, shops and cultural attractions...Recognition of Dundas' industrial origins...Need BENCHES ON SIDEWALKS to **rest when walking**, FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM at DUNDAS FIRE STATION to **showcase the 5 antique fire trucks we have**. HERITAGE DISTRICT...worry that new housing additions will degrade historical feel of district...Public access to historical places should be required of developers. New SENIORS CENTRE with **activities that are free**...HISTORIC CHURCHES As some lose members can we save the buildings by sharing their space? ...also the SCHOOLS that we have, and **protect them** by sharing their facilities and outdoor space.

**Connectors...***We need to protect the CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL CONNECTORS that connect areas of town to each other and to downtown....if we lose them we lose our community...Use PARKING LOTS for **community events** that foster meaningful human connection...Could lose parking lots, most now leased to city...could that change?...Need BIKE LANES, too many bikes on sidewalks, RAIL TRAIL...Cyclists are scary for walkers... TRAFFIC LIGHTS should allow more time to cross...LOCAL BUS ACCESS to Hwy 5.....*

## DETAILED MINUTES

### IDEAS & POTENTIAL ACTIONS

*Just get up and do it ... You've got to protect it for the future*

#### *Natural Areas & Parks*

*WEBSTER'S/ TEW'S/ DUNDAS PEAK TRAIL LOOP* now broken, stairs to gorge gone, Webster's to Tew's Falls trail broken by private interest... Access to Sandhills now gone... **would like the trail to be CONTINUOUS again**

*New TRAILHEAD.... From Old Train Station Site: to the Websters / Tews gorges*

*New SHUTTLE FROM DOWNTOWN... Originate shuttle from downtown parking, then hikers will come back and enjoy the shops and restaurants of Dundas... DRIVING PARK... More use for events...*

*SPENCER CREEK TRAIL... muddy, needs upgrading, garbage a problem, lighting?... Regular natural area cleanups need to be organized, COOTES AND DESJARDINS CANAL... **Need places to sit and WATCH THE WATER**... water quality ?*

#### *Buildings & Public Spaces*

*OUTDOOR MAP* needed to point out Dundas historical spots, shops and cultural attractions... *Recognition of Dundas' industrial origins... Need BENCHES ON SIDEWALKS* to rest when walking, **FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM** at DUNDAS FIRE STATION to showcase the 5 antique fire trucks we have... *Spaces in Dundas that are underutilized may be at risk... Think of buildings that could be used for other uses after hours... HERITAGE DISTRICT.... worry that new housing additions will degrade historical feel of district... Public access to historical places should be required of developers... SENIORS CENTRE... activities that are free... ACCESSIBILITY ... Sidewalks and building entrances need to be improved for wheelchairs and scooters... As some churches lose members can we save the buildings by sharing their space? ... DEVELOPMENT* needs to be balanced for young families... affordability... *without children your community dies... Without affordable houses.... Less children means infrastructure (ie SCHOOLS AND RECREATION CENTRES) for them will disappear... Miss the kids who used to be downtown when Parkside was here... High School kids are now ghettoized to outskirts of community*

#### *Connectors*

We need to protect the *CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL CONNECTORS* that connect areas of town to each other and to downtown... **if we lose them we lose our community**... Use Parking lots for community events that foster meaningful human connection... **Close off King Street Between King and Ogilvie temporarily (or permanently)** to make a town square and make the existing parking lots indispensable... **Need BIKE LANES**, too many bikes on sidewalks, **RAIL TRAIL**... Cyclists are scary for walkers... Traffic Lights should allow more time to cross... Local Bus access to Hwy 5... Could lose parking lots... most now leased to city... *could that change? ... PARKING LOTS have unrealized potential*

## ***PHILOSOPHIES and PROCESS***

***Democratic Process*** for decision making regarding change of use or sale of public assets needed... There is no consultation of community as to priorities and how things are done....loss of Parkside High School, Victoria Street laneway, University Gardens School, Pleasant Valley School.....*what's next? ....How quickly we can lose things when we don't have a say.... Political vision...public needs a say in priorities...* Grightmire Arena is out of action for a year....***how is it decided how public money is spent?***

***Repurposing***...rather than tearing down is desirable.( i.e. University Gardens School)when this doesn't happen there is a problem with the process

***Communicate*** more with groups like the HRC, corporations, community groups.... not just councillor. Research how the Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC) could help us...Need an ***inventory of needs*** (such as seniors and affordable housing). *Who has done one?*

Need to share ideas as a group and work together and with politicians and be positive....Non confrontational approach desirable....***Don't make it political, keep it constructive...***Need to be aware of what jurisdiction our places are in...ie Dundas or Flamborough  
*Politics will enter conversation but it is not the point of these discussions.*

Dundas is a ***hidden gem***....*there is so much we should be grateful for....* We want to be positive, to be “for something”....By thinking about our community now, we can be better prepared to contribute to and influence decisions affecting our community tomorrow