

DUNDAS COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE #2

Summary of Discussion: Valuing Public Places in Dundas

“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)

INVENTORY of PUBLIC PLACES that we VALUE

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

RBG & HRCA ... WEBSTER'S / TEWS FALLS / DUNDAS PEAK...CHRISTIE'S CONSERVATION AREA...*wonderful bermed trails for mountain biking...COOTES PARADISE...Paddling, hiking, bird watching, Stewards of Cootes Watershed...SANCTUARY PARK...memories of using it with our children....* ROCK CHAPEL, DUNDAS VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA...great trails

Parks, Cemeteries & Outdoor Spaces

THE DRIVING PARK ...something for all ages, *used for many generations, many community events, volunteers make gardens a treasure, dog walking culture...FISHERS MILL PARK...love the creek...DESJARDINS CANAL NATURAL AREA...Butterfly Garden is wonderful...views of water...*

GROVES CEMETERY... Quiet, Dog walking...ST AUGUSTINE CEMETERY, LYONS CEMETERY on Forestview-small neighbourhood cemetery -quiet place to sit, Love reading in GRAFTON SQUARE

Buildings & Public Spaces

KING STREET is a social anchor for Dundas, where you can meet people in a variety of settings. It has *Historic Architecture, unique shops where shopkeepers care, a friendly atmosphere, a unique vibrancy....*Downtown Dundas has a distinct *artistic diversity*, with a wide variety of historic institutions....DUNDAS MUSEUM, THE LIBRARY, CARNEGIE GALLERY, DVSA, THE TOWN HALL...DUNDAS CENTRAL SCHOOL...*still here!....with a natural playground (better than plastic!), Air Force Club PLANE being refurbished, 4 HERITAGE CHURCHES in Downtown... ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH...a wonderful place to meditate....GRIGHTMIRE ARENA....a great place for seniors skating, 2 HATT STREET....oldest building in Dundas needs appropriate use and refurbishment, DUNDAS FIRE STATION....only one working firetruck now, DISTRICT LOFTS is amazing.... Our OLD POST OFFICE....working clock!*

Connectors

A network of STREETS with SIDEWALKS....the grid layout of historic Dundas allows multiple routes for walking and driving...A network where we meet and see people casually....Walking is interesting in historic Dundas because every house is different *and you know exactly where you are...Love the BOULEVARD ON CROSS STREET....protected from cars....great connection from downtown to Driving Park.*

....interlaced with PATHWAYS, LANEWAYS & TRAILS ...All over Dundas are lovely little connector lanes and trails...*the stairs connecting Alma Street to the homes above and the BRUCE TRAIL...connecting RBG & HRCA areas...Trails north of Governors road connecting Parks and neighbourhoods, RAIL TRAIL...*

SPENCER CREEK TRAIL...wild urban trail- allowing nature to creep into our everyday lives, 3 special cranes... NATURAL CORRIDOR from Davidson Boulevard that connects that neighbourhood to the downtown...

....connected to PARKING LOTS behind the scenes ...What helps make King Street work so well are the 7 parking lots behind the scenes on Park and Hatt Streets....*where people park and find their way to the shops and businesses through small pedestrian passages such as the COVERED ALLEY BESIDE PICONES connecting King Street to.... MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT 7D on Hatt Street serves the Library, Carnegie, DVSA, as well has multiple usesused for FARMERS MARKET, CACTUS FESTIVAL midway, Bookmobile on Fridays*

DUNDAS COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE #2

Summary of Discussion: Valuing Public Places in Dundas

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

DUNDAS COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE #2

Summary of Discussion: Valuing Public Places in Dundas

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 HRCA, 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