

January 20, 2009

### **Note to reader**

Now and in the past, there is and has been much public interest in a large block of land bounded by the Desjardins Canal, Cootes Paradise, the Niagara Escarpment and the urban Easterly boundary of the community of Dundas. The issues being debated and the questions being asked relate to the best long term use of individual parcels within the bigger block of land ....and the bigger area itself, which, because of its unique location and attributes, has been suggested as the site for a sanctuary or possibly even a National Urban Park. And deservedly so. One of the biggest upcoming growth nodes in North America is projected to be in the Golden Horseshoe which makes the preservation of this ecological area ever so more important.

Recently, there has been renewed pressure to develop some of the private holdings within this area...and unfortunately, in the absence of a well articulated vision for the bigger site, there exists the danger of piece meal decision making, which, in the long term, will jeopardize the fulfillment of the sanctuary concept.

The absence of an overall vision is of great concern to many, and for this reason, three long time residents of Hamilton with a common interest in maximizing open space opportunities in Hamilton, agreed to seek a professional opinion on the potential of the area.

It was our good fortune that the Planning/Consulting firm of Urban Strategies Inc., agreed to undertake this challenge ..... resulting in this report. Urban Strategies Inc. has an impressive array of national and international planning awards and has worked on several consulting assignments in Hamilton. It is also noteworthy that the Consultant undertook this project on a Pro Bono basis.

It is our hope that the readers of this report will share the enthusiasm shown by the Consultant and take the recommendations close to heart.

Brian Baetz

Joanna Chapman

Ben Vanderbrug