

Clr. Russ Powers' Column

for Jan 23/09 edition of Dundas Star News

The City of Hamilton is developing a new Urban Official Plan – a long term vision of how Hamilton will manage land use planning change over the next 20 years. The public is encouraged to provide your input on a number of planning topics. Seven open houses are planned throughout the City between Jan 19th and Feb 2nd. Meetings will be held in the afternoon from 2-4 pm (presentation at 2:30 pm) and in the evening from 6-8 pm (presentation at 6:30 pm). For further information, call Christine @ 905.546.2424, ext 1279 or Sarah @ 905.546.2424, ext 4672 or view their website at www.hamilton.ca/newurbanop .

Recently, City Council gave approval to a “Golden Age Bus Pass” as a part of our 2009 HSR service enhancements. The pass entitles seniors, eighty (80) years of age or older to ride the HSR for free. The planned implementation date is May 1st, 2009, concurrent with the renewal date of the senior’s annual pass program. When the program is finalized, I will advise you of the details.

The 2009 Hamilton WinterFest takes place at various locations throughout the City between January 24th and February 8th. A number of events are planned for Dundas including the Official Opening of the Dundas Rotary Skating Rink in the Dundas Driving Park on Saturday, Feb 7th at 1 pm. Come out and join in the afternoon festivities as we celebrate Hamilton’s first permanent outdoor skating rink, a project of the Dundas Valley Sunrise Rotary Club. For further information about WinterFest, call 905.546.4646 or view their website at www.hamiltonwinterfest.ca .

On Tuesday, Feb 17th, the Economic Development and Planning Committee (ED&P) of Hamilton City Council will convene at 9:30 am in the Albion Room of the Hamilton Convention Centre to consider the application by First Dundas Ltd to amend the zoning at 201 King St East, Dundas to allow the construction of a self-storage facility at the northwest corner of Olympic Dr and King St East. Although I am not a member of the ED&P Committee, I have advised the Committee Chair, Clr. Maria Pearson that I am not supportive of the proposal and will cast my negative vote, if and when, the issue ultimately comes to City Council. There has been overwhelming rejection of this proposal by Dundas citizens to an area that has, by default, become a secondary gateway to Dundas and West Hamilton.