

**Wednesday, September 22nd, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall**

**The Dundas Community Council met.**

**There were Present:** Russ Powers, Councillor  
Larry Button  
Bob James  
Bill Kennedy, Environment  
Phyllis Kraemer, Business  
Fiorigio Minelli  
Stan Nowak, Heritage  
Jeff Saunders  
Libby Toews, Art & Culture

**Regrets:** Keith Sharp, Sports & Recreation

**Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Craig Campbell, Dundas Star News  
Arlene VanderBeek, Councillor's Office  
Doug Gordon, Dundas Resident  
Carl Collins, Dundas Resident

**1. Remarks from the MP, MPP, School Trustees - None**

**2. Previous Meeting Report**

The report from the April 21st, 2010 meeting was received as distributed and was moved by Stan Nowak, seconded by Bill Kennedy to accept the minutes, as presented. Carried.

**3 Presentations and Discussions**

- Clr. Powers introduced Don Hull, Director of Transit, who serves on the CUTA Board with Clr. Powers and described some visioning that they have worked on for the past 18 months, to introduce a novel approach to providing transit within Dundas and a pilot project within the City of Hamilton.
- Charles Fitzsimmons of TechKnowledge Consulting, Keith Andrews, HSR Operation Superintendent and Jim Dahms, HSR Manager of Transit Planning.
- Don Hull provided some background information and explained that the City was approached by MetroLinx, who offered \$25,000 to explore alternate

transit service delivery with the goal of coming up with an innovative service delivery model. Don approached Russ to discuss the possibilities in Dundas, because it seemed a possible candidate for the project. Charles was engaged to begin the process of looking at possibilities. The pilot is under development and Don explained that they are starting with consultation. The service in Dundas can be handled with a smaller bus and the potential to penetrate further into residential areas is good in Dundas. Since a smaller bus has been procured and will be applied in Dundas. It is very unique because this bus is one that is fully accessible (similar to the DARTS bus) but is the only one made with a conventional bus interior.

- Charles talked about the idea and the process: The current system services 44 passengers/day on a service that runs in the morning and afternoon. The goal is to improve convenience: picking up people in front of their house to attract more riders. Eventually this vehicle could take some Darts passengers who have regular trips within Dundas and who are able to do curb-to-curb (not escorted from the door). There will be some experimentation involved in its development and would eventually offer a service with more convenient appeal. The plan is to introduce the new bus vehicle into Dundas, on the 52A Route; followed by public open houses and consultation to develop the new project.
- Larry Button noted that this might allow seniors to stay in their own home longer (University Gardens and Pleasant Valley) and still get out to medical appointments, shopping, library, etc. He also suggested that if staff is looking at setting up focus or advisory groups, they might involve Dundas Community Services, who are always looking for volunteers to drive folks. These are people who are predominantly not on-line and who might use this when they might not want to “put people out” to accommodate their needs.
- Phyllis Kraemer commented that the Darts issue is the timing – taxi scripts are more convenient. She thinks that there will be overwhelming support for this. Don noted that this is not risk free: there may be people who feel that certain areas are getting a higher level of service. She also noted that the BIA will be interested in putting advertising on the side of the bus. 19% of the population in Dundas is over 65 years.
- Bill Kennedy asked about fares. Don said that it is about service design/efficiencies and will probably have to adhere to Council-mandated fare policies. It is about trying to make the attractiveness of transit to and from the stop more convenient for people who can't ride because of weather or physical limitations.
- Stan Nowak asked if this bus would be a seniors-only service. Don responded that it is for all citizens. Stan also asked if this bus would stay within Dundas. Don said it would have to stay within the designed current service area.
- Clr. Powers noted that this bus will cover the catchment areas of the regular conventional service areas to bring people to the regular route. For instance, there is no bus service into University Gardens because of the way that it was constructed, and where some areas are almost 2 kms way from the normal bus routes.

- Libby Toews enquired about how far off the route the service would extend. Don noted that a lot of the areas are landlocked by the escarpment and it is a risk that certain limits will have to be adhered to. He noted that he is finding that a lot of seniors want more shelters and benches on the regular routes, regardless of the new proposed services. If they know that there are shelters and benches available, they will be more likely to take the trip. Charles said that they will be relying on the City transit planners to find the balance through calculation and experimentation. Libby noted that it would be wonderful for people with children, as well as seniors.
- Fiorigio Minelli wanted clarification that the buses will feed into the main line. Don responded that – in its simplest form – they could put the smaller buses on route 52A. Fiorigio asked at what point it becomes a Community bus – can they travel within Dundas? Don said that a Community bus is a bus that does a circle in 15 minutes; you give the bus a time of 30 minutes if there is demand to go off-route for a pickup or drop-off at another destination or transfer to a bus on a regular route. It is assumed that most of the ridership in Dundas will want to transfer to a main line to go elsewhere. Nothing is cast in stone. They would like to get started and go through the public process to refine the service, based on feedback of the folks living in the areas.
- Clr. Powers pointed out that the current path for Route 52 finds its way to the transfer points.
- Don Hull said that they don't want to go into it with preconceived notions, but want to ask people what they need and want, and then staff will try to plan the project around those identified needs.
- Jeff Saunders asked if the bus could be used to make short trips within the allotted time. Don said that Dundas has some very well attended programmes available and the trips may begin and end to provide a single integrated transit service, designed with the ridership's input.
- Bob James mentioned that there may be another goal: to get people out of their cars. A lot of it is in the detail – hopefully there could be additional routes that go into areas that do not have any type of transit service at the moment. Don noted that bike racks have made a significant difference in ridership. He experience suggests that there is a better likelihood that people will get out of their cars if the people who cannot use public transit now, will be able to. Bob also noted that some municipalities have GPS-driven signs that tell you when the next bus is coming. Don said that they are acquiring such signage, but it is a long-term plan and that the City buses have one of the top GPS systems anywhere. Bob noted that he can follow it on his iphone, but most seniors can't do that, so a sign at the bus stop would be an asset.
- Carl Collins: Dial-a-bus started and ended in municipalities all over North America, but were generally not maintained. He noted that, often the older folks who have to wait for a bus and then have to stand on the bus because the kids won't get up. Carl asked if additional buses will be acquired. Don noted that the problem is that the interiors of the buses are not designed for the aging population, and they have had to leave people in wheelchairs at the curb (for lack of space), while taking able-bodied people away. Their number one

priority for 2011 is to convince Council that there is a need for additional services in some areas to manage the demand and avoid a crisis. Charles pointed out that low-floor buses and wheelchair areas take bus seats and now they realize that if they want to compete on convenience, the City will have to provide seats for the increased ridership.

- Clr. Powers asked if the Community Council thought that it is a worthwhile project to take out to the public. The response was unanimously positive.
- Phyllis Kraemer asked if they have thought about how they are you going to keep the school kids from overloading the bus in the mornings.
- Larry Button commented that getting the message to the public will be a challenge: Don said that they will do a mail walk to the residents within the catchment areas
- Bill Kennedy noted that one of the greatest fears of the elderly is losing their driver's license and this may "fill that bill".
- Libby Toews mentioned that, in her opinion, the main route survives on the student population. Clr. Powers pointed out that the LRT will hold approximately 300 people and can off-load much faster than a regular bus.
- Fiorigio Minelli said that he thinks the current bus service is faster than driving to McMaster (if you include time to park, etc.), so if you now have to go around the whole neighbourhood, it will take longer – so may be problematic
- Bob James asked that staff not discount the possibility of rearranging the routes and the fact that people may want to travel within Dundas.
- Cost benefits: 52A is subsidized by about \$150,000+ per year

#### **4. Updates on Business from Previous Report:**

##### 1. Proposed and on-going projects in Dundas

- Newcombe and Davidson construction is still on-going and closing in on completion
- Marimat Homes construction continues – All houses are constructed, the parkette has been cleared and will be completed soon..
- Pleasant Valley School site is coming along – Single Family Dwellings and link housing are being built as they are sold.
- 25 King St. E – Former Good Times Fishing Club – equipment is on-site and the construction will begin soon
- St. Joseph's Estates project proposal was denied at Committee and denied unanimously at Council. They have filed with the OMB. The hearing will take place in January of 2011.
- 133 – 153 – Shopper's Drug Mart is still on schedule to open in January.
- 24 Brock Street – New submission reduced the units from 56 to 48, reduced the setback from the buildings on Park Street and incorporates a stepped back design.
- 10 Bond St. – pre-consultation, but nothing new.

- 2555 Creekside Drive. Not likely to come to a public meeting before January 2011 and is actually higher than 9 stories because the first floor is significantly higher than the first floor of the other apartment buildings.
- Post Office – Work is well underway – inside and outside – and expect full occupancy by March of 2011
- Lyndale – Civitan Living Centre – Will go to the Planning Committee on October 5<sup>th</sup> and has been recommended for approval by City staff
- 231 York Road – submission has been received for 18 townhouse units for preconsultation
- Delsey Street – 15 unit development is underway
- 16 King Street East – Dairy Queen – application has been made for a 7 storey condo/commercial building, to include an eat-in Dairy Queen on the ground floor.
- 17 ½ Park St. – all 5 units have been sold and the project is close to completion – landscaping and stonework is underway
- 397 King St. W., – former Dundas District School – Plan to start working inside the building mid-October. All approvals are in place. The concerns raised, previously, at Community Council were considered.

## 5. Correspondence - None

## 6. Information/Discussion Items:

- Hockeyville – event schedule attached. – game is at night and players will be visiting the schools during the day. The game will be broadcast live on TSN and will be shown on a 20 x 20 foot screen on Market Street between King and Mill Street – [www.nhl.com](http://www.nhl.com) has several stories of interest.. Yellow jerseys and white t-shirts are available at Mason's sports.
- Hamilton Health Sciences – the urgent care centre is expected to be open in July of 2011 and the outreach will begin in approximately February.

## 7. Community Reports from Members

### (a) Arts and Culture – Libby Toews – Report attached

- Money from the federal government was promised to DVSA and Russ helped to acquire a matching \$2.45 million, which will be available for a project which has to be completed by the end of March in 2011. The federal government will only fund what is finished by that date. The matching money will be provided and any money not spent to match the federal fund, will go back to the Dundas Arts Foundation for the Carnegie Gallery and the Dundas Museum for their capital projects. Libby thanked Russ for his assistance and the City for its proactive approach to Arts in the community.
- Had a very successful garden tour for the Gallery
- DVSA summer camp was a big success

- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Carnegie building and 30 years of the Carnegie in the building.
- Books for Dundas September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm
- Beyond Words exhibition at the DVSA – October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup> – opening reception will be held on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 7 to 9:30 pm
- Beyond the Valley Studio Tour, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> – 10 am to 5 pm
- Beyond the Page – Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm – The Carnegie Gallery
- Arts Dundas Weekend is November 4, 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>
- Freewheelin' Concerts: John Ellison: October 2<sup>nd</sup>; Madison Violet: November 20<sup>th</sup>; Wendell Ferguson and Katherine Wheatley: January 8<sup>th</sup>; Jesse Winchester: March 26<sup>th</sup> at The Carnegie Gallery

**(b) Business – Phyllis Kraemer**

- New businesses: Tammuz: middle-eastern take-out on Foundry Street; Tony Shwarma is opening on King St. East; MiMi clothing, Variety store in the West end of King Street and the laundromat at King and Church. Elinoire has vacated her location and is temporarily next to Berry Ellen for 6 months; Picone's has made changes to their look; Rebellion One and the Old Owl's Roost building have been nominated for awards, Oxford Street re-opened tonight; Shopper's Drug Mart is taking form.
- Shopper's Drug Mart has been very co-operative in working with the businesses and residential neighbours and is planning a stone and brick fascade in keeping with the Dundas streetscape.
- Bangkok Spoon Deluxe has a new patio with a water feature
- Detour are moving to the front of the building with a café. The roasting has been moved off-site because they couldn't meet the MOE's requirements at that location.
- Domestique is busy and will be serving snacks and light lunches
- The building and lot at the corner of King and Miller's lane has been purchased and leased to Starbuck's – demo is to start soon.
- The market is doing well and will operate until the end of October.
- An Indian restaurant will be opening in the Music Block
- Dundas is expected to be decorated for Hockeyville
- Buskerfest and Cactus Fest were great events
- Scarecrow Saturday will be coming up at the end of the month
- Reader's Choice voting is underway and there are many Dundas businesses nominated – so you are encouraged to vote.

**(c) Environment – Bill Kennedy**

- Thorpe Street bridge is now open
- The City did a very nice job re-surfacing King Street
- Clr. Powers noted that a liaison committee was created (including the project manager, the contractor, the BIA and Clr. Powers), which met weekly to provide input, answer questions and deal with issues. They were great to work with and

there were very few issues. They managed the project around both Busker and Cactus Festivals and finished the job ahead of schedule.

- Kerr Street has been resurfaced
- Pleasant Valley road resurfacing is almost complete

**(d) Heritage – Stan Nowak** - Report attached.

**(e) Sports and Recreation – Keith Sharp – no report**

**(f) Others**

**7. Other Issues/Questions:**

**8. Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 24th, 2010.

**9. Adjournment** at 9:05 p.m. moved by Libby Toews and seconded by Phyllis Kraemer.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Russ Powers  
Councillor**