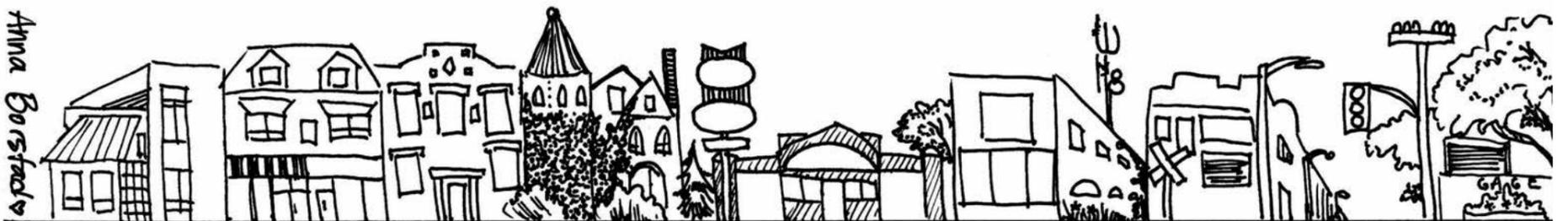


SOUTH SHERMAN HUB NEWS

A publication of the South Sherman Community Planning Team

November ~ December, 2012

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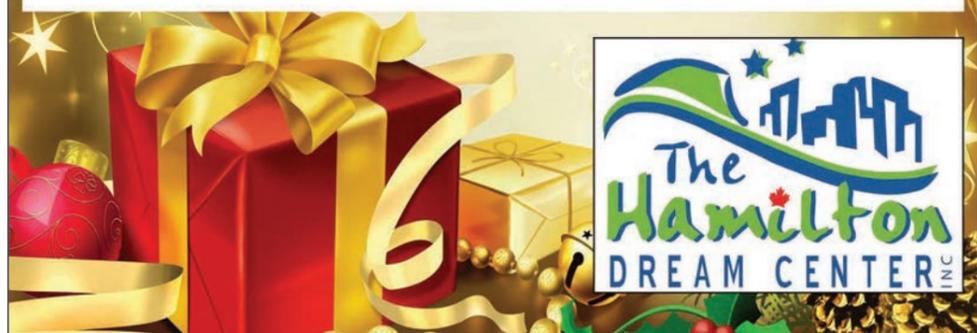
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CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!

The Dreaming of Christmas campaign this is one of our biggest programs every year and it is made possible by passionate supporters. There are a few ways YOU can help:

- 1) organize a food drive at your work or church for items for the food hampers: peas, corn, stuffing, large cans of juice etc. Call the office to help set up your drive!
- 2) sponsor a family for Christmas. For \$200 you can provide a complete Christmas to working poor families who need some extra support this Christmas. A complete Christmas includes: a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings and gifts for each child in the family. Sponsorship donations can be made via: cheque or credit card. Cash donations can be made in person at the office.
- 3) organize a toy drive at your work or church and help us provide many gifts to each child!
- 4) Volunteer your time packing food hampers, wrapping presents, stocking the "toy store"...there'll be LOTS to do!
- 5) Share your connections. IF you know someone who has a heart to get involved in this type of project or works in a place that is in a position to donate any of the supplies we need to make this the best year yet let us know!!
Phone 905-527-8605 and speak with Faith Simms to get involved!



WESLEY URBAN MINISTRIES

'No Charge Christmas Store' Initiative

Wesley Urban Ministries is excited to announce the 'No Charge Christmas Store' initiative. The 'No Charge Christmas Store' has been serving those in need for over 30 years. More than 6,000 individuals, (including 3,000 children) are expected to attend. We are now accepting donations of cash and food so we may continue this Christmas tradition; please visit our website: www.wesleyurbanministries.ca, or call 905-528-5629 for more details.

NEW LOCATION:
Goodwill-The Amity Group
225 King William Street (at Ferguson)
4th Floor

Please generously give to those in need.

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER & CONCERT



Saturday December 1st.
Tickets available from Church office
85 Holton Ave. South & Main



Enjoy a delicious dinner, purchase baked goods, poinsettias and crafts along with a wonderful, live-music concert

ST. GILES UNITED CHURCH 905-549-3068 stgiles@stgileschurch.ca
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Communication Relationships Engagement

By Rebecca Doll

These days I mark time in bi-monthly intervals, thanks to the Hub News, so it feels as if we are transitioning from a season of Thanking to a season of Giving.

Inevitably Christmas makes me think of the mad rush of last minute shopping, which I love. I used to find it stressful when I worried about what people wanted, but now I just decide what they need, as in, this year we all need down pillows, or this year we all need home-made bread and butter pickles. I am a terrible aunt in that respect, occasionally and inconsistently giving presents even though I love to. Of course, my nephews are also used to getting excuses from the tooth fairy under their pillows so perhaps I am fitting right in.

One of the most powerful things that it is in our power to give, consciously, daily and endlessly, is the benefit of the doubt. I have been the recipient of it often enough to know it's impact, even when it isn't accurate; "She's not up yet, she must have drunk some bad water last night"; "She works really hard, she must have been too busy to remember that"; "She never gives birthday presents but she really over does it a Christmas". The effect of this on me is that I end up working even harder to live up to people's belief in me.

Of course, when you see the video of the guys stealing your neighbour's car, it's pretty hard to give them the benefit of the doubt, but I choose to believe that I misplaced my garden tools, that she cancelled our date for a good reason, that everyone is doing their best most of the time.

People say that the most important thing that people need in order to flourish is love. I don't know if I know what that means. I love Christmas, I love the

big willow tree at Gage Park and I love gale-force windy days at the lake. I feel joy and I feel gratitude and sometimes I feel powerfully defensive of my neighbours. Is that love? How do we give someone more?

Somebody said that listening is so close to love that to most of us, it is the same thing. That got me to thinking more generally of attention, of paying attention to people and to the important role that attention plays in building relationships. What would happen if we could pay a little more attention to our kids, our neighbours, our nephews that we never give presents to?

These two things, paying attention and giving the benefit of the doubt, have come together in my mind to mean Generosity of Spirit. It is my all-time favourite human characteristic and luckily one that we can cultivate in ourselves. It makes getting to know people a pleasure, it makes maintaining relationships a

One of the most powerful things that it is in our power to give, consciously, daily and endlessly, is the benefit of the doubt.

reward. It's like that magic piggy bank we all wished for as kids, one that would never run out. Just when you think it's empty someone pays you a little bit of attention or gives you the benefit of the doubt and the piggy bank is full again.

Perhaps that is why Christmas is my favourite holiday; whether you believe in Jesus or presents, it is a season of giving, rooted in generosity of spirit. I wish you all abundance this holiday season.

ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

By David Derbyshire

In the last edition of the South Sherman Hub News I started to talk about my approach to Asset Based Community Development and I used the analogy of a Russian Doll. As you begin to unpeel the layers of the doll you notice the reoccurring appearance of the person, the smiling unchanging face of the doll, it is a constant. In our neighbourhoods the constants are the people who live, work and play in our neighbourhood. Everywhere I go within the South Sherman neighbourhood I am greeted by the people who make the area their home.

In any neighbourhood the biggest assets are the people who live there. They are the ones who have the most at stake

when decisions are being made that will impact the neighbourhood. They are the experts without whom decisions that impact their lives should not be made. So it would stand to reason that this is where our journey begins.

The first task of a Community Developer is to get to know the people who live in a neighbourhood, a simple yet complex and sometimes controversial task. Here in South Sherman the journey began for me with meeting Dan, a local business owner who was born and raised within the neighbourhood and has been a life-long member of St. Giles United Church. Dan invited me to join himself and some members of the neigh-

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We would love to have your help.

If you would like to have copies of the *Hub News* dropped at your business contact: itshappeninginthehubs@gmail.com

The South Sherman Community Planning Team meets the first Monday of every month (except Holiday Mondays) at 7pm at St Giles Church, 85 Holton Av at Main. We use an asset-based community development model to engage neighbours, businesses, government, agencies, churches and anyone who has a passion for our community. Please come out and help us make our neighbourhood a great place to live, work and raise a family.
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Co-Treasurer: Dan Peace
Co-Treasurer: Sarah Merritt
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Community Development Worker: David Derbyshire

bourhood who had come together to explore how they could do something to build a stronger community with people living here. We talked about how we could use an asset-based approach, one that focused on the gifts and strengths that neighbours possessed and how we could build on those assets to address some of the challenges that existed within the neighbourhood. And as we talked, more and more people joined the conversation and the focus was on how we could use our assets to facilitate change, not invite outside resources in to do it for us but with us.

In the early days as Carolyn, Pam, Carrey, Rebecca, and Sandy became key connectors our group slowly grew with more and more people dropping in to see how we were attempting to be helpful and decided for themselves if this was something they were interested in or not.

This approach is not for everyone. It was and continues to be for people who want to make a difference through positive changes, who see the possibilities and the roles they can play in making those possibilities a reality. After a couple of months of meetings that laid the groundwork for how the approach could work here in South Sherman, and how we would work together, we began to identify the assets that our neighbours possessed and wondered about how we might be able to build on them. The fruit of our labours was beginning to show

with the emergence of small projects that built on the assets of neighbours; an interest in crafting, a community BBQ and street sale and a couple of socializing events at the local bowling alley and most importantly to the building of cohesion for the group was the Heart of the Hammer Café. This provided us with the space we lacked for bringing new people in and getting to know them in an informal setting and learning about their hopes, dreams and the assets they brought to the neighbourhood. Sandy, Janice, Karen, Gail, Fraser and many others began to not only show up at the café but also at the Planning Team meetings eager to help make a difference.

I have mentioned a few names of the hundreds of neighbours who helped to move this way of building a community forward, each bringing their assets and commitment to making the neighbourhood a better place to live, work and raise a family. Each of the hundreds were critically important to helping get us to where we are today by contributing in your their way, even if it was only for a time. As people come into and go out of the community they leave parts of themselves; their wisdom, their experiences, the projects they helped with, and they take things with them; relationships, memories and the lived experience that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, the we is stronger than the I.

Musical Journey

By Darin Martin

This morning I woke up, got my kids ready for school and walked them along the leaf-covered sidewalks of Main Street. As we strolled along and said hello to the many familiar people along the way, I once again felt like this is our home.

Recently as we started looking for a place to live in Hamilton I wrote a song called "Home" that captures part of my experience with the city streets of Hamilton. One line in the song says "All of my days I've been dreaming of home, counting the street lights and stop signs I've known." There is something reminiscent for me as I walk or ride my bike along Dunscombe and stop at each street's stop sign. The big beautiful houses, the gardens, even the cars parked all along the streets where there are no driveways. This is my home.

I am starting to brainstorm around the idea of writing a whole album about Hamilton. Of course it will have to touch on some of the challenges that Hamiltonians face, but I want to tell a story from my perspective of the wonderful diversity and beauty of this City. From my perspective right now, I am looking out my window with a hot cup of coffee and I can see busses passing on Main street, buildings on the edge of the escarpment that look like they could topple over with a strong wind, trees that

are as green as they are vibrant red in the crisp Fall. I see an abandoned church for sale whose members have long gone and found other places of worship. I see residents of one of our many long-term care facilities who enjoy sitting outside and saying hello to passers by.

Someone recently reminded me that songs have a way of connecting us to other people; to memories from our past. I love the way a song can create a mood or tell a story and take you to a place where you may not have initially intended to go. I love that when I am doing something and a song comes on, it becomes like a background track for the scene that is being created.

I want to write songs, that people listen to when they want to feel a certain way, or remember a certain time. I would love to write a story song that takes someone back to their childhood.

Perhaps my Hamilton album will have one such gem on it. Perhaps I will be able to capture such a masterpiece. Maybe my story of our city will help bring some positive change.

There is so much to write and sing about from this city of inspiration. When I go into other cities to play concerts, I always bring a little bit of Hamilton with me wherever I go. And at the end of the show, I load up the guitars into my van and head for home.

KITCHEN GARDENER

By Joanne Kasprzski

The depth of winter is a time of rest and reflection for both gardens and gardeners, a time to let the soil sleep and a time to dream of the coming season. It is also a great time to search for inspiration, to listen to the stories of others who have succeeded in their gardening missions, as well as those who are working for food security for themselves and their neighbours.

One such inspirational tale is of the English town of Todmorden in West Yorkshire. A small town in which the public flowerbeds and gardens have been largely re-purposed for the growing of vegetables, berries and fruits which the townsfolk are encouraged to take home and eat. Three years ago, two local residents created a group which they called the Incredible Edible. The aim of this small non-profit is to encourage food sustainability for all the people in Todmorden. Like a much larger version of a community garden, the project encompasses different plots of land, both public and private. Run and staffed by volunteers, Incredible Edible has become very popular in town. Growing fruits, berries, herbs and veggies in various spots and inviting the townsfolk to freely partake of the harvest brings the community together and shifts the focus away from the negativity that plagues news casts and

economies. One of the Founders, Mary Clear even lowered the front wall of her garden to encourage folks to come into her yard and help themselves. A story like this, aside from brightening my week also proves that people, no matter what spot they inhabit on earth, are increasingly speaking and acting out in favour of food which is locally grown in a sustainable and natural way, respecting nature and our connection to it. The image that stays with me long after reading this article is of a scene Mary Clark describes near a communal herb bed: 'The children walk past here on the way to school. We've filled the flower beds with fennel and they've all been taught that if you bite fennel, it tastes like a liquorice gobstopper. When I see the children popping little bits of herb into their mouths, I just think it's brilliant.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2072383/Eccentric-town-Todmorden-growing-ALL-veg.html#ixzz1jeUap4j8>



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Carolyn McCann

Jimmy Thompson A South Sherman Hub Hero

Just like 60,000 other Hamilton children in the mid 20th century, I enrolled in Hamilton Municipal Pool's Learn to Swim Program at a cost of \$1.00 for 7 months of lessons. I overcame my fear and trepidation of both the water and the instructor to ensure an enjoyable life-long healthy skill thanks to the vision of James Gilmour (Jimmy) Thompson.

Hamilton Municipal Pool, the first indoor pool in Hamilton, was built and used for the 1930's British Empire Games. At the time, it was "considered to be a marvel of engineering and public hygiene". The true marvel, however, was the man hired to run it. Newspaper clippings in the Hamilton Public Library

*It has been a labour of love;
love of work and people,
particularly the children.*

archives report the many honours and accomplishments of this humble man who just wanted to keep children healthy, physically fit, and water-safe. Jimmy pioneered swim programs as a treatment for the handicapped. He was convinced that all children whether disabled, athletically talented or just your ordinary child would benefit from learning to swim.

Jimmy achieved many honours: Provincial & National swim meets, Canadian Olympic swim team 1928 (bronze medal), 1932, 1936, British Empire Games, City of Hamilton Appreciation Award 1955, Hamilton Citizen of the Year 1959, Canada's swimming coach

of the year, 1964. One article in the Spectator stated "he has enough trophies, medal and ribbons in his keep to overflow a good-sized attic room."

Head of the Municipal Pool for nearly 40 years, Jimmy kept a busy schedule of coaching and teaching thousands of children to swim. As coach of the Hamilton Aquatic Club he trained numerous British Empire Games and Olympic swimmers, divers, the award-winning Water Polo team and Marilyn Bell (first to swim across Lake Ontario). He instituted learn to swim classes in cooperation with school boards, Scouts, Guides and families. Jimmy always considered his greatest accomplishments to be his work with children. At an appreciation dinner in 1955 he commented, "Championships are unimportant in comparison to helping one single kiddie on the road to health, self-reliance and good citizenship. It has been a labour of love; love of work and people, particularly the children." (Hamilton Spectator)

I was certainly apprehensive at my first lesson with Jimmy Thompson but I was indeed proud to be present in 1991 when the pool was renamed The Jimmy Thompson Pool and the City of Hamilton Historical Commemorative Plaque was erected there. The South Sherman Hub may not have the biggest or most modern of indoor swimming pools in Hamilton but they do have the one that honours "Mr. Swimming" - the man who started Hamilton's tradition of excellent swimming programs.

Carolyn McCann is a member of the Hamilton Historical Board

Hamilton City Neighbourhood Action Plans

By David Lefebvre

"Excellent" is the word for September 24th's City Hall consultation for neighbourhood action plans. Four district citizen's communities made presentations to City Hall, spending twenty minutes showcasing their accomplishments. Prior to that, Mr. Paul Johnson, the city director for the Hubs, spoke at length about the entire Hubs project, and its role in the city's revitalization.

The City Hall's council viewing area was completely packed. There were extra chairs filled with people out in the hall. The Hubs presenting to the City Hall were McQuesten, Stinson, Keith, and Beasley. Our residents of South Sherman were mentioned in Mr. Paul Johnson's speech, as well as the others.

To keep the details short in this arti-

cle, I would like to briefly speak to what I thought was the most important point of the assembly — the people! Council was so impressed with the turn out of citizens that every member was elated that they had taken a risk and funded the Hubs. All of them spoke of the turn out, and how enthusiastic the overflowing multitude was about their participation in their neighbourhoods. Council unanimously passed a motion praising each Hub's effort. Short videos were shown of each region, adding emphasis to this determination.

In conclusion, my experience with the Hub members and councilors was extremely positive at this consultation. Hey, they even had food for us. Thank you, Hamilton.

TURNING CANNON Into a Complete Street

By Jason Leach Reprinted with permission from Raise the Hammer www.raisethehammer.org

Now is the time to bring balance and complete streets to our major one-way corridors through our urban neighbourhoods and through the heart of our downtown commercial district.

I recently returned from a week in Portland, Oregon. Despite all the press that city receives for its major planning initiatives and LRT projects (and it deserves every ounce of press), I was really struck by the little things it does right.

While there, I realized that we can turn our own Cannon Street (and Main St., too) from an ugly, barren urban expressway into a complete, liveable street quite easily.

Portland is loaded with one-way streets. I would venture to guess it has many more than Hamilton. Yet I didn't see any that were barren, urban expressways. They were all complete streets allowing for easy traffic flow along with easy cycling activity, street parking and safe pedestrian design.

Cannon Street has space for its sidewalks to go from this:



Cannon Street, Hamilton (Image credit: Googlemaps)

To this:



12th Avenue, Portland (Image credit: Flickr)

The space is there. We simply need to make green infrastructure a priority. And we can sell this easily in Hamilton. Here's how.

Bioswales

Look at the above picture and notice the cuts in the garden curbs. You can't see from this angle, but in the middle of each planter box there is a grate like this:



12th Avenue storm-water runoff box (Image credit: Flickr)

These are storm-water runoff boxes, or bioswales. They use them all through Portland where there has been flooding issues in recent years as the city has grown and overtaxed its water system. Sound familiar, Hamilton?

No major reconstruction is needed. No expropriation.

These sidewalk planters are everywhere now. What an amazingly cheap way to deal with storm water runoff and add needed greenery to hard urban streets.

Imagine how much rainwater we could divert if we built these all through lower Hamilton: killing two birds with one stone, and saving capacity in our sewer system for years to come.

I've done the measurements and Cannon Street in its current form with its current sidewalks and road width can be transformed to add bioswale planting areas along with a road design like this:

My personal suggestions: Move the



Separated bike lanes in Portland (Image credit: Flickr)

protected bike lane to the south curb of Cannon, then have two live traffic lanes, then curb parking on the north lane. This protects pedestrians on both sidewalks from live traffic and it prevents any conflicts between parking cars, stopping buses and bikes.

Protected Bike Lanes

A left side protected bike lane would look like this:

No major reconstruction is needed. No



Protected bike lanes, Columbus Ave., New York City (Image credit: Gothamist)

expropriation. The only real 'construction' work would involve the planting boxes on the sidewalks, which would do

wonders for the streetscape, property values, pedestrian safety and rainwater retention.

Cannon Street can become one of Hamilton's safest, greenest, accessible streets and would surely see a surge in cycling activity and new streetfront business due to its location as a straight line connection through the heart of downtown Hamilton and the new James Street arts district from Strathcona/York Boulevard in the west to the new Pan Am Stadium and Ottawa Street neighbourhood in the east.

Even as a one-way street, the cycle lanes can be two-way and cyclists are instructed to obey the already existing crosswalk signals that eastbound pedestrians would use.

Alternatively, we can leave the bike lane as a one-way lane and give Wilson



Two-way cycle lanes (Image credit: Brooklyn Paper)

Street from James to Sherman the same treatment in order to create the return bike lane headed east. Sherman has ample road space between King and Cannon to connect these three streets with safe bike lanes.

East of Sherman

East of Sherman Avenue, Cannon can be redesigned to continue the bike path by simply moving the parking lane from the north curb to the south curb:

Measurements will be different in Hamilton, but you get the idea: bike

path, westbound lane, eastbound lane, curb parking.

I'd love to see Cannon become a new example of what can be done with one-way streets in lower Hamilton. And now is the time. I'm in the midst of comparing 1999 traffic volumes with new numbers from 2009 and as one example, Upper James near Limeridge carries 43,000 cars per day on its four lanes.

Cannon Street at James carries less than 19,000 on its four lanes. The traffic volume on Cannon is the same as it was a decade earlier. Upper James and other suburban, two-way streets have seen an increase.

Balance and Complete Streets

The industrial heyday is behind us. Now is the time to bring balance and complete streets to our major one-way corridors through our urban neighbourhoods and through the heart of our downtown commercial district.

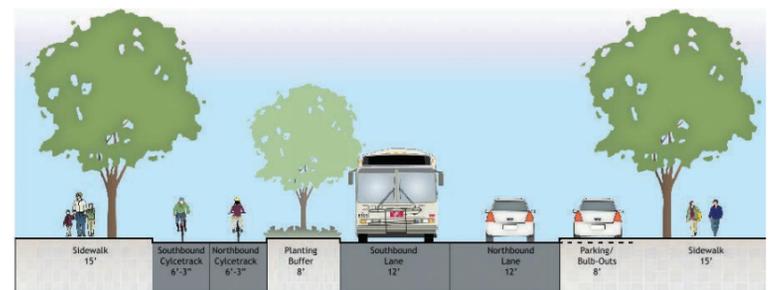
Adding greenery and safe travel options will be a huge boost to city attempts to create mixed-income neighbourhoods throughout the lower city. It can be done without a huge reconstruction cost too. It simply needs to be seen as a priority.

Please contact your councillor and re-

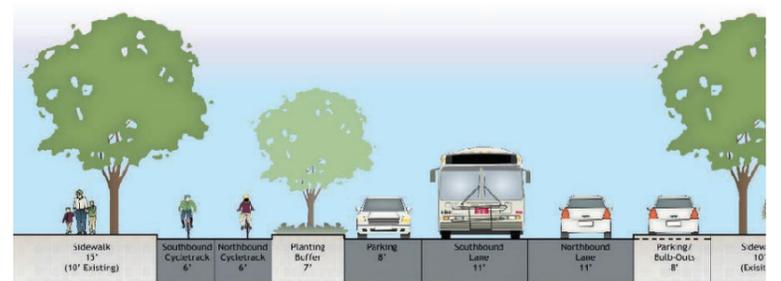


Complete street in New York City (Image credit: Flickr)

spectfully add your name to the growing list of individuals, neighbourhood associations and transportation advocates desiring to see positive change come to Cannon Street.



Two-Way Cycletracks
Market to Harrison
Two-Way Cycletrack, Buffer, Bull-Outs, Parking East Side



Two-way cycletracks street section (Image credit: Streetsblog)

THE COMPETITIVENESS OF

By Michael H Shuman

Economic localization (“localization”) offers the key to solving a growing number of global problems, including peak oil, climate disruption, and financial meltdowns. Yet the perception remains that this solution is very costly, because local goods and services supposedly are more expensive than their global alternatives. American consumers are convinced that “big-box” stores and bigger businesses mean lower prices — “always,” in the Wal-Mart vernacular. And not a few localization activists concur, arguing that consumers should nevertheless be prepared to pay more to responsibly avert the calamities of a carbon-dependent world. In fact, local goods and services are already competing remarkably well in the marketplace — and they are likely to do better in the near future. This chapter lays out why cost effectiveness actually is a reason to embrace localization and argues that the only thing standing in the way of localization flourishing is, oddly, policy-makers committed to propping up increasingly non-competitive global corporations.

A Local Living Economy

Ever since 2001, when the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) was founded, the term “local living economy” has become shorthand for a pragmatic approach to localization. Two principles lie at its core:

1. The wealthiest communities are those with the highest percentage of jobs in businesses that are locally owned. A growing body of evidence suggests that local ownership in businesses pumps up the multiplier effect of every local dollar spent, which increases local income, wealth, jobs, taxes, charitable contributions, economic development, tourism, and entrepreneurship.
2. The wealthiest communities are those that maximize local self-reliance. This doesn't mean that they cut themselves off from global trade. But they rely on trade only for the diminishing universe of goods and services that they cannot competitively provide for themselves.

Both principles would be very difficult to vindicate, if not impossible, were global businesses ultimately more competitive than local ones. If the scale of business has to be large for them to compete, then it would be difficult for communities to embrace locally owned firms, because larger-scale businesses require global pools of owners. Nor could communities possibly achieve greater self-re-

In fact, local goods and services are already competing remarkably well in the marketplace

liance, because larger-scale businesses imply greater reliance on trade. Fortunately, there's powerful evidence that local businesses in the United States are already quite competitive — and likely to become more so in the years ahead.

The Current Economy

The U.S. economy turns out to be remarkably local already. A good sense of the U.S. economy can be gleaned from

the 2010 edition of the Statistical Abstract, an annual publication of the U.S. Census Bureau (unless noted otherwise, the figures below are all for 2006, the most recent year for which most data are available in the report).

Table 744, on “Employer Firms,” shows that in 2006, firms with fewer than 500 employees (which is how the U.S. government officially defines “small businesses”) accounted for 50 percent of all private-sector jobs. Since smaller businesses pay employees slightly less than larger businesses, they account for

...the wealthiest communities are those that maximize local self-reliance.

44 percent of payrolls. Roughly speaking, then, small businesses make up about half the private economy. Probably 99 percent of these small businesses are locally owned sole proprietorships, partnerships, and small corporations. Add both government entities and nonprofits to small businesses and one finds that nearly 60 percent of the economy is rooted in place. That's the national average. Any decent accounting of unpaid labor, like stay-at-home parents, family care of the elderly, and volunteerism generally — all items economists don't know how to count and therefore assign a value of zero to — would conclude that perhaps 80 percent of the economic activities in a typical community are done by resident entrepreneurs and firms. In other words, the world's most powerful

The more information consumers have, the more they buy local.

industrial nation is largely made up of locally owned businesses today. But isn't globalization upending this? Haven't Wal-Marts, Home Depots, Borders bookstores, and thousands of other chains taken over our communities and destroyed local businesses? Well, yes, they have, but keep in mind that every business listed in the previous sentence is a retailer. The Census Bureau abstract's table 654, which breaks down gross domestic product (GDP) by industrial sectors, shows that retail accounts for about 7 percent of the economy. In much of the other 93 percent of the economy, in everything from manufacturing to finance, local businesses have been experiencing a renaissance. If global companies were really beating local companies, their “market share” of GDP would be growing. Table 744 in the abstract shows that in 2006, the global-local breakdown was practically identical to what it was in 2000, and that small businesses accounted for 3 percent less of the economy than in 1990.

So, in sixteen years of globalization, small businesses lost only 3 percent “market share.” Big deal. In fact, even that loss may not have occurred. The Census Bureau's table 741 provides figures on “Nonemployer Establishments,”

businesses (many informal and home-based) with no employees at all. These entrepreneurs are not included in the small-business figures just discussed. It turns out that in 2006, more than 20 million Americans generated \$970 billion of business with no employees at all — or more than 7 percent of the U.S. economy (GDP that year was a bit over \$13 trillion). Comparable nonemployer data go back only to 1997, when 15 million Americans generated \$586 billion of business. Extrapolating backwards, there were perhaps 10 million self-employed individuals generating \$300 billion of business in 1990. The 3 percent of market share supposedly lost by small businesses since then was actually more than made up for by growth in smaller, home-based businesses. So, despite nearly two decades of globalization and public policies (elaborated below) tilted like a double-diamond ski slope against small business, local businesses have steadily maintained their share of the economy.

This fact underscores how competitive the sector is. And if we retooled public policies to remove their big-business bias, local businesses could be expected to substantially increase their market share. But surely these local businesses, even if they survive from year to year, are not as profitable as global businesses. In fact, table 728 in the abstract, on “Number of Tax Returns, Receipts, and Net Income by Type of Business,” shows that nonfarm proprietorships generate three times more after-tax income, for every dollar of sales, than corporations. Partnerships fall in between. Because the profits of corporations are effectively taxed twice — through corporate taxes and then individual taxes on dividends and stock gains — their relative profit rates are even less attractive to investors. So are local businesses profitable in every sector? Let's look at the 1,100 categories of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which is effectively the inventory of all firms in the United States.

Of all 1,100 categories, only four showed the number of large firms exceeding the number of small firms in 2006. Topping the list of industries hard to localize is nuclear power (yet another reason to oppose that economically and environmentally dangerous energy alternative). The other three least localizable industries are sugar beet manufacturing, potash mining, and pipeline manufacturing. In every other part of the economy, we have many more examples of successful small, local businesses than we do of large, global businesses. A mistake that economic developers commonly make is that they look at the average business size in a given industry. From a community perspective, this is irrelevant. A community should be looking at just the right size firm consistent with local resources and regional markets. And any community trying to become self-reliant can find myriad examples of small-scale business success in nearly every category of the economy.

Another feature of the U.S. economy is that, as a country, we are surprisingly

self-reliant. Table 651 in the Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract shows that in 2008, the country imported \$2.5 trillion worth of goods and services into our \$14 trillion economy. That is, imports represented about 17 percent of the economy. When the Chinese stop artificially keeping their currency low and other foreigners begin unloading their shrinking American dollars, both of which seem inevitable, this import percentage will drop. We are destined to become more self-reliant very soon. The only question is how fast.

Lowest Prices

But what about prices? Aren't the Wal-Marts of the world always going to charge lower prices than their local competitors? What is not well appreciated is how nonsensical this question is. The U.S. economy is made up of literally millions of products. Studies that claim that this or that chain store is cheaper — and many of these studies have been commissioned by said stores and still call themselves “independent” surveys — do little more than cherry-pick a tiny sampling. If you believe that price is the primary driver of consumer demand, then you've never been to Starbucks. There may be many reasons to buy your mocha latte with a shot of vanilla, but price is not one of them. What really matters to consumers is value, which considers price alongside many other factors: What's the quality of the product? How trustworthy is the producer? What's the after-purchase service package look like? How rewarding is the shopping experience? What's the chance I'm going to be overcharged or ripped off? How well does

The wealthiest communities are those with the highest percentage of jobs in businesses that are locally owned

the company treat its workers and the environment? Does it contribute to local charities and sponsor the local Little League? These turn out to be the very categories in which local businesses naturally excel.

If local businesses provided goods and services with low value, then consumers — given the real facts about more expensive and shoddy local alternatives — would flock to the chain stores. In fact, buy-local campaigns always move consumers in the opposite direction. The more information consumers have, the more they buy local. One compelling explanation is that most consumers today know relatively little about great deals locally and instead have been influenced by billions of dollars of advertising pumping the virtues of buying globally.

Back to the Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract. Table 651 breaks down consumer spending in the United States into three categories: durable goods, nondurable goods, and services. In 1970 services made up 45 percent of spending. By 2008, it grew to 60 percent. This trend is mirrored in every industrialized country in the world. As people make more money, they get saturated with

LOCAL LIVING ECONOMIES

“stuff.” Once you have your third car, your fourth computer, and your fifth television set, you begin to see the virtue in spending your next available dollar on more education or better health care. This trend is great news for localization, because most services are inherently local and depend on face-to-face relationships with people we know and trust. But what about outsourcing to global service providers? Thomas Friedman’s book, *The World Is Flat*, is filled with anecdotes about American firms turning to low-wage workers in India and China to do taxes or patent filings. But all his colorful stories turn out to have little statistical significance. Table 1250 in the Census Bureau’s Statistical Abstract shows that the U.S. trade balance in services has been in surplus and steadily growing over the past decade to \$144 billion in 2008. Imports of outside services have been fairly inconsequential.

Yes, the U.S. trade deficit has ballooned in recent years, but it’s all been because of our imports of foreign goods. Table 651 in the abstract shows that only about a quarter of our goods consumption is of “durables.” Cars, appliances, gadgets, DVDs, computers, toys, housewares — all the stuff increasingly manufactured in China — constitute only about a tenth of our over-all spending. The “nondurables” tend to include food, building materials, wood, textiles, clothing, office supplies, and paper products. And the greater importance of non-durable goods in consumer spending provides yet another opening for localization. An important characteristic of many of the nondurables is that their weight-to-value ratio is much greater than that of durables. When energy prices and shipping costs rise, non-durable imports will be the first casualties. This means that local production of food and clothing coupled with local distribution, for example, will once again be competitive against Wal-Mart’s importing of these goods 10,000 miles from

These inequities in public subsidies, regulation, laws and economic development practices are so extreme, so uniformly tilted against local business, that they cannot be regarded as a mere accident.

China — even if the Chinese wages were zero. A paradoxical implication of distant, low wage manufacturing is that distribution costs are becoming more important. The less that labor is valued, the more that rising shipping costs can threaten the competitiveness of the model.

Other trends, of course, also are likely to make global goods more expensive. Carbon taxes, which will proliferate as the evidence of climate disruption becomes clearer, will further pump up the costs of global shipping. Fears of terrorists cutting off or sabotaging long-distance

supplies will put a new premium on local production of food, energy, and other necessities. The Internet is giving more and more people the opportunity to choose to live in places they love, irrespective of the community’s size or natural resources, and to participate in their professions of choice from their own homes. As noted earlier, home-based businesses constitute one of the fastest-growing parts of the U.S. economy. Meanwhile, local businesses in every industrial sector are learning how to compete more effectively. Through community-based networks, local businesses are sharing best practices — in service, in technology, in business design, in marketing, in finance. These businesses are learning the competitive value of working together. For years, True Value Hardware stores — all locally owned — have successfully competed against Home Depots through a producer cooperative. Tucson Originals is a group of independently-operated restaurants in Arizona that collectively buys foodstuffs, kitchen equipment, and dishes to bring down their costs. There is no economy of scale that local businesses cannot plausibly realize through collaboration.

Thanks to the work of groups like the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and the Transition Network, local business innovations are now spreading globally. Community food enterprises are increasingly collaborating through sister restaurants and technical exchanges. Global conferences are passing along innovations in small-scale energy systems, credit unions, and local currencies. While the Lilliputian businesses have been slow to find their footing, they finally are learning that by working together they can restrain the Gullivers of globalization.

Postglobalization Politics

If the analysis above is correct, globalization is fast approaching a cliff — one that much of the world is not anticipating. Global corporations will not disappear, of course, but their role will shrink and many will go out of business. They will be forced to focus on the diminishing number of highly specialized goods and services that communities cannot cost effectively provide for themselves. All of this assumes naively, however, that economics trumps politics. In fact, wobbly global corporations can be expected to convince politicians everywhere to save them. After the major U.S. banks and financial institutions began to fail spectacularly in late 2008, a progressive president and Congress stepped in to bail them out with Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) legislation. If this happens every time other inefficient global enterprises are about to go out of business, then of course localization will fail — not because it can’t compete, but because policy-makers can’t tolerate its winning.

Many do not appreciate the extent to which U.S. policy-makers have rigged the economy against local business:

If you’re a local business in most U.S. states, you must assess a sales tax. If you’re online retailer Amazon.com, you don’t.

SMALL-MART REVOLUTION CHECKLIST Five Items for Community Builders

- 1. Education** — Help key members of the community (including businesspeople, politicians, civil servants, civic activists, and academics) understand the virtues of the Small-Mart Revolution.
- 2 Local First** — Undertake grassroots education about which businesses are local and how best to support them with local planning, training, purchasing, investing, and public policy.
- 3 Identify Leaks** — Identify economic leaks that suggest opportunities for new or expanded local businesses. Use this, along with an analysis of local assets, to assess specific businesses most promising for the community’s future.
- 4 Vision** — Organize key stakeholders to study the leakage analysis and craft a unified, coherent vision of the community’s economic future.
- 5 Implementation** — Develop a set of consistent, reinforcing Small-Mart programs and policies that help the community realize its vision.

If you’re a global business, you can afford a battalion of attorneys that work the rest of the tax system so that your obligation is close to zero. If you’re a local business, you can’t.

A generation ago, the way that Wal-Mart strong-arms its suppliers would have been illegal under anti-trust laws. Today, the behemoth gets a pass.

Securities laws are so ridiculously expensive for small businesses who wish to have small (unaccredited) investors that virtually no pension funds are invested in the local half of private economy. Given the greater profitability of local businesses, this is a huge and inexcusable market failure.

The World Trade Organization and other trade regimes, by prohibiting communities from identifying which goods are locally made, essentially give placeless companies an unfair advantage while denying consumers information that could help them make more informed market choices.

A recent study of forty-five economic development programs in fifteen states found that 90 percent were spending most of their funds to attract or retain nonlocal business. Given this, the estimated \$50 billion spent each year by state and local economic developers — not to mention federal supports for big oil, big farming, big coal, big defense con-

tractors — primarily accomplishes one result: to make local businesses less competitive.

These inequities in public subsidies, regulations, laws, and economic development practices are so extreme, so uniformly tilted against local business, that they cannot be regarded as a mere accident. They reflect years of lobbying, favor buying, and campaign contributing by global businesses. As the economic plight of global companies deteriorates, these political manipulations will intensify. And thanks to a January 2010 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court overturning a 103-year ban on direct corporate spending to influence elections, corporations are now free to spend unlimited amounts on “political free speech.” Localization, therefore, could still be thwarted, along with its ability to deliver a new era of prosperity to communities across the country.

Increasingly, those supporting local living economies must be prepared to expose and block this coming political backlash. Whether the country’s landing in a post-carbon future is harsh or gentle, exorbitant or affordable, ultimately turns on whether our politicians will just allow local goods and services to win.

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Contacts 2 Contracts: Doing Business with the Government

Tuesday, November 6, 9:00am-12:00pm.

The Small Business Enterprise Centre, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce & Innovation Factory are proud to present a new series of procurement seminars, designed to expand commercial opportunities for Hamilton’s small businesses. The first Contacts 2 Contracts seminar will feature representatives from TO2015 and the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, so that Hamilton small businesses can understand the fundamentals of government purchasing and selling goods and services to the public sector. Pre-registration is required by calling the SBEC at 905-540-6400.

VIVA PanAm Viva Hamilton 2015!

TO2015 unveils new stadium for Hamilton, host of Pan Am soccer “Neighbourhood stadium” shifts axis north-south, adds latest state-of-the-art features HAMILTON, October 12, 2012 — Hamilton’s storied Ivor Wynne Stadium will rise again as a state-of-the-art sport legacy to Steel Town, the sole host of soccer competitions during the upcoming 2015 Pan Am Games, officials confirmed today. The brand new \$145.7-million stadium, to be renamed Hamilton Pan Am Soccer Stadium at Games time, is jointly funded by the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario and the City of Hamilton. It will open in July 2014 — a full year before Hamilton hosts all 32 men’s and women’s soccer games during the Games. The overall project costs for this facility are anticipated to come in at \$145.7 million, of which \$119.1 million is earmarked to design, build and finance the project. The remainder is comprised of capital expenditures for equipment, transaction fees, project management and other ancillary costs. It is on budget and construction is starting on time. The new stadium will be built on a 5.45-hectare parcel in Hamilton’s Stipley neighbourhood where the venerable Ivor Wynne Stadium currently stands. The design reimagines the historic site — fitting, the same ground where Canada held its first major international competition, the British Empire Games in 1930 — as a flexible “neighbourhood stadium” that can host professional and amateur sports, cultural happenings and prestigious national and international events. “In almost a thousand days, Hamilton will welcome some of the world’s top soccer teams to compete in Canada’s newest and most modern stadium,” said Ian Troop, Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015). “As the sole Pan Am venue for the world’s most popular sport, the Hamilton Pan Am Soccer Stadium will be the focus of some of the most intense interest and passionate spectators we’ll see in 2015 and this showpiece legacy



New Ivor Wynn Stadium (Photo courtesy of TO2015)

venue will help ensure the city of Hamilton shines.” To maximize flexibility, the stadium’s footprint has shifted 90 degrees to a north-south axis in line with international standards, and a striking sun-lit pedestrian plaza has been added to encourage residents and sports fans to come together to celebrate big games and cultural events. The venue also meets the highest standards for accessibility and the most up-to-date technical requirements of the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), including all-new FIFA-approved artificial turf. This new Hamilton Pan Am Stadium will be a multi-use venue providing a community legacy that will last for generations. “Ivor Wynne Stadium has served Hamilton and its residents for over 85 years but it’s time for a new facility to capture the imagination of the city, its sports fans and its athletes,” said Hamilton Mayor, Bob Bratina. “With this design, we’re creating a stadium our community can use year-round and sets Hamilton up to attract national and international events that will boost the city’s tourism and economy as a whole.” The modern and airy stadium will have a

solid masonry base topped by a white steel exoskeleton with permanent seating for 22,500 spectators and the ability to expand to up to 40,000 seats for major events. It will have fantastic sightlines and first-class amenities, such as 30 club suites, six elevators, bigger seat sizes, updated press and broadcasting facilities, as well as concession stands on all levels. The Commissioner of the Canadian Football League, Mark Cohon indicates that the new stadium with expanded seating will meet the standard and criteria to host a future Grey Cup game in the city of Hamilton. With the new north-south alignment, players and spectators will also have a jaw-dropping view to the south of the 90-metre-high slope of the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, known locally as “The Mountain.” Wind and sun shading on the field-of-play will also be greatly reduced and allows light into homes along Beechwood and Balsam Avenues. The current 84-year-old Ivor Wynne Stadium will be demolished in December following the end of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 2012 Canadian Football League (CFL) season. Construction is slated to start immediately after the site is cleared. “The

Government of Canada is a proud supporter of the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games, which will bring economic prosperity and job creation to the region, the province and our country as a whole,” said the Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport). “As a result of our Government’s contribution to the Games, our talented amateur athletes will have the opportunity to compete in state-of-the-art facilities as they take on the Americas in 2015.” Infrastructure Ontario recently announced the hiring of Ontario Sports Solutions (ONSS) as the consortium in charge of the Hamilton project. The consortium consists of developers and constructors Bouygues Building Canada Inc. and Kenaidan Contracting Ltd., as well as the design team of Cannon Design, Faulkner-Browns Architects and Arup Associates. “The provincial government is proud to be bringing the ‘People’s Games’ to Hamilton, boosting the local economy with new jobs in construction and tourism,” said Charles Sousa, Ontario Minister responsible for the Pan and Parapan American Games. “This new state-of-the-art stadium will be a tremendous legacy for the community to enjoy for many years.” The soccer stadium in Hamilton is part of a previously announced construction bundle for the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, which also includes the velodrome in Milton and an athletics stadium at York University in Toronto. The Hamilton stadium will reach a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating with its site selection, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, waste diversion and recycling, and the efficient use of energy, water and other resources.



Lights, Camera, (Neighbourhood) ACTION!

by Rebecca Doll

Thanks to support from the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation, the residents of the South Sherman neighbourhood are creating a short video about community-building in the South Sherman Hub. We’ve been working with a professional company called ProjectVideo Inc. (www.projectvideo.tv) that specializes in collaborative video. Sarah Glen and Yan Theoret teach us how to do each aspect of the project, from using the cameras to

conducting interviews to editing, and we work together to create something meaningful that speaks to our experiences and our aspirations. This not only produces great content and great relationships, it helps to build the capacity in the community as more of us learn these skills. We haven’t yet created that video, but we did create an even shorter piece, what you might call a trailer for the main event. It is 73 seconds long and can be found on the South Sherman

Hub Facebook Group. It would be great if some of you reading this thought to yourselves, “I’d love to learn how to make a documentary!” and came out to play with us. Though we started last spring and it feels like we’re coming into the home stretch, it’s not too late to learn, share and collaborate. We need help with scheduling, organizing, camera work, editing, etc. Check out the trailer, then contact Sarah at: videoproject@mail.com

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9 a. m. – 12 p. m.**

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Small-Mart Revolution Checklist: 34 Items For Policy-Makers

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The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition

by Michael Shuman

Daily Mantra: Remove all public support, including anything that requires city staff time and energy, from nonlocal business and refocus it instead, laser-like, on local business.

Local Studies

- 1. Indicators:** Prepare quantifiable measures of the community's quality of life (economic, environmental, social, and political) that hold your economic-development policies accountable. Conduct public hearings in which residents decide which indicators are most relevant, then put together an annual report on the best ones, distribute it widely, and place it on a website.
- 2. Assets Analysis:** Gather data on assets in the region, especially unused or underused economic inputs like unemployed labor, abandoned lots and buildings, and idle machinery, all to clarify what's available for new or expanded small business.
- 3. Imports Analysis:** Prepare an annual measure of imports and dependencies, especially in basic goods and services, to underscore where local consumer demands already exist for new locally owned businesses.
- 4. Subsidy Inventory:** Perform a full evaluation of all subsidies given in the last ten years to business (grants, loans, guarantees, tax abatements, capital improvements, TIFs, or bond issues), and catalogue which, if any, went to local businesses.
- 5. State of the Region Report:** Prepare an annual booklet with the latest assessments of indicators, assets, and imports, as well as other inventories noted below, all to strategically identify business opportunities with the greatest benefit for the community.
- 6. Community Reinvestment Report:** Study which local depository institutions — and, if any exist, which investment institutions — are reinvesting more than 90 percent of their

savings/investments locally.

- 7. Pension Fund Analysis:** Identify which pension funds, whether public or private, specialized or mutual, might be capable of reinvesting locally.
- 8. Good Community-keeping Seals:** Evaluate the performance of all businesses in the region and award a special seal to any firm that is not only locally owned but also a good performer with workers, consumers, and the environment.

Local Training

- 1. Entrepreneurship Programs:** Revitalize entrepreneurship programs in public schools, community colleges, and local universities to emphasize local and small business. Allocate municipal funds to help other institutions like churches, civic groups, and small business associations set up entrepreneurship study groups.
- 2. Mentorship Programs:** Link established businesspeople (especially retirees with extra time) with young and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- 3. Place-based Scholarships:** To retain the best and brightest, create a scholarship fund that extends no-interest loans to college-bound kids. (If they return to and settle in the community after graduation, they enjoy no- or low-interest provisions; otherwise, interest rates kick up to market levels.)
- 4. Incubators:** Limit public support to incubators that house only locally owned businesses, and link them to local entrepreneurship programs and business mentors.

Local Purchasing

- 1. The Homegrown Directory:** Prepare a directory of local businesses organized by product or business type that could help residents buy local. This could then be distributed in hard copies and over the Internet to consumers.
- 2. Regional Directory:** Combine your homegrown directory with neighbor-

ing towns around a regional theme.

- 3. Selective Public Contracting:** Give a 5 to 10% bidding advantage to local businesses. Better still, demand that all bidders estimate anticipated multiplier benefits.
- 4. Small Business Bidding Assistance:** Set up an office that helps local business compete more effectively for public contracts.
- 5. Broker B2B Deals:** Consider replicating the model of the Oregon Marketplace, which in the 1980s and early 1990s helped local businesses buy cost-effective inputs from local suppliers.
- 6. Buy-Local Campaigns:** Support private efforts to create local credit, debit, loyalty, or gift cards, perhaps by providing them to public employees.
- 7. Time Dollars:** Help coordinate a city-wide Time Dollar program, and provide tax credits for each Time Dollar earned to promote volunteerism and to lower public requirements for expenditures on social services.
- 8. Local Currency:** Support or create a local scrip, since only businesses and service providers committed to re-spending locally will be interested in accepting the currency. Pay bonuses or raises to public employees in the scrip, and accept scrip for partial payment of taxes, both of which Philadelphia did during the Great Depression.

Local Investing

- 1. Bank Local:** Make sure the city uses a local bank or credit union to conduct business and handle payroll.
- 2. Invest Local:** Begin moving municipal investment, including surplus revenues and pension funds, into local business either directly or indirectly through local-business venture, hedge, or mutual funds.
- 3. Bond Finance:** Limit the use of industrial revenue bonds to projects involving locally owned business.
- 4. Subsidies:** Remove as many business

subsidies as possible, and sunset the rest. Subject those remaining to a fair bidding process open to local business. Never pay subsidies, even tax abatements, before the promises of jobs and other benefits are fulfilled.

Local Public Policy

- 1. Smart Growth:** Revamp zoning to permit most kinds of uses in most places, especially home-based businesses. More fully use developed land and buildings before grinding up green space or farms.
- 2. Smart Zoning:** Use local zoning powers to prevent gigantic chain-store clusters that can destroy existing small business (though beware the legal and economic ramifications of total bans on outside competition).
- 3. Smart Schools:** Refurbish older, smaller school buildings instead of building newer, bigger ones. Make it easy and safe for children to walk or bicycle to school.
- 4. Smart Taxes:** Phase out all taxes on business, income, sales, and property, and phase in revenue-neutral taxes on energy, nonrenewable resources, pollution, and nuisances. If more revenue is ever needed, use Henry George property taxes (on land, not on improvements) to spur business.
- 5. Smart Wages:** Create [Propose?] a living wage ordinance to eliminate most working poverty in the community. Use savings in local welfare programs to ease the transition for burdened small business. Celebrate, don't lament, how these scare away chain stores.
- 6. Smart Politics:** Invest in serious, professional lobbyists to press for reforms of various national laws concerning subsidies, corporations, banking, and trade that are currently biased against local business.

MOVE Fall Forum November 8, 2012

The MOVE Fall Forum is for employers, the non-profit sector, corporations, proud Hamiltonians, people interested in community leadership, and those interested in building a sustainable Hamilton. Join us and learn from those who have mastered how to match passion with skills and from those who are experienced in putting ideas into action. Learn how to play a role in moving Hamilton forward by becoming an Agent of Change.

AGENDA

Thursday, November 8th 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hamilton Convention Centre Chedoke Ballroom

To register: www.volunteerhamilton.on.ca or 905-523-4444

Registration 8 a.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 8:30 a.m. Mayor Bratina, the City of Hamilton and Len Lifchus, United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton

Setting the Stage 9:00 a.m. Melanie Winterle, Executive Director, Volunteer Hamilton and Liz Duval, Regional Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

SESSION 1 9:15 a.m. **Trends and Influences in Community Engagement** A Cross-Sector panel discussion featuring:

Jane Allison, Manager Community Partnerships, The Hamilton Spectator

Evelyn Myrie, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

Martinus Geleynse, Editor, Urbanicity

Ryan Moran, President, HIVE

Break 10:45 a.m.

SESSION 2 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **How Post-Secondary Student Success MOVES Our Community Forward** An interactive conversation with representatives from Post-Secondary Schools:

Volunteer Hamilton, 267 King St East, Hamilton, ON L8N 1B9 Ph: 905-523-4444 Fax 888-469-1778 www.volunteerhamilton.on.ca Charitable Registration No. 108103607RR Affiliated with United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton, Volunteer Canada, & Imagine Canada

Jay Robb, Communications Director, Mohawk College
Sandra Preston, Director of Experiential Learning, Faculty of Social Science,
McMaster University
TBD, Redeemer University College

Lunch 12:30 p.m. – 1 p.m.

SESSION 3 1 p.m. **Idea Exchange Introduction to the "Power of Conversation"** by Dr. Gary and Joy Warner Our roundtable discussions cover a range of topics from engaging the new volunteer, to exploring the ecosystem of community engagement, and ideas into action best practices.

Roundtable Facilitators:

Michael Gustar, Manager of Agencies and Volunteer Resources, Volunteer Hamilton

Melanie Winterle, Executive Director, Volunteer Hamilton

Marissa Fogel, BricInc

Adam Kuhn, Manager of Community Service-Learning and Civic Engagement,

McMaster University

Sue Vattay, Mohawk College

Steve Dykstra, Redeemer University College

Deban Brunette, Neighbour to Neighbour

Emanuela Ducharme, City of Hamilton

Ryan Moran, President, Hamilton HIVE

Leo Johnson, Empowerment2

Alex Ramirez, Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee

Wrap Up and Next Steps 2:30 p.m.

CASINO: How Much Are We Willing to Gamble?

By Matthew Green

Much has been written and reported on the possibility of a new Casino in downtown Hamilton. The recent restructuring slots and revenue sharing for the horse racing industry by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation has reopened the local debate around the net cost/benefits that a casino would bring to our city as the OLG seeks to “bring its business closer to its customers.”

Challenged by the obvious high levels of unemployment here in the city, the prospects for new decent paying jobs are attractive to those seeking work. The apparent capital investment and possibility of attracting tourism to the downtown core also look appealing on paper. But do all these reported benefits pass the scratch test? Does research and actual comparative analysis support these claims?

Back in 1999 during the last incarnation of this debate, two prominent local researchers Dr. Atif Kurbursi of Econometric Research Limited and Don Jaffray of the Social Research Planning Council here in Hamilton were tasked with presenting a comprehensive study entitled “The Social and Economic Impacts of a permanent Casino in Hamilton” The study projected the following key findings:

“We estimate the total number of visits to exceed 972,803 under the medium scenario. This estimate falls between a low of 612,336 visits and a high of 1,333,271.

The estimated total gaming revenue of the market varies between a low of \$23.2 million and a high of \$60.1 million with an average value of \$41.7 million

the local residential population would account for 51% of the casino visits and 50% of the gaming revenue.

More than 876 full time equivalent jobs will be created in the community either directly in the casino (525) or in closely related activities that sustain indirectly its operations or by the induced ex-

penditures of the newly created incomes.”

On the flip side of the report the net economic impacts after factoring the effects of local Hamiltonians redirecting their discretionary income towards the casino a replacement value would have to include:

- A total of \$1,979,083 would be the amount lost at the Casino that could have been spent on a groceries.
- \$4,947,708 could have been spent on clothing.

The sum of these two items called the cannibalization or substitute effect of redirected expenditures is \$6,926,791

The study also noted the financial impact would have equal or greater net negative impacts on social outcomes especially around problem gambling.

“The results of this estimating procedure suggest that even when we use the most conservative estimates for prevalence of the problem gambling population and smallest number of people around them that are likely to be affected, a population of over 26,000 will experience stress or difficulties. The high estimate indicates that as many as 89,000 people could be negatively affected by problem gambling behaviours by someone near to them.”

At best this report outlined the offsetting economic indicators as people redirect their limited discretionary income towards the casino and away from other past economic interests such as food, entertainment and clothing. In the worst light, it highlights that despite our best efforts we are still unable to adequately calculate the social costs of problem gambling on families and communities. Even at the lowest projected numbers the stats include potentially over 25,000 Hamiltonians affected by a downtown casino. In its time it was a best guess projection of what a Casino would have

looked like here in Hamilton back in the context of 1999.

What about our closest comparables? As Hamilton passed on the mid 1990’s opportunity, how did those cities that went ahead with building charitable casinos fare with their trade off? A comparative report entitled “Local Community Impacts of the Charity Casinos” prepared for the Addiction Programs Ontario Ministry of Health by Robert Hann and Associates Limited. This report covered the charity casinos in Thunder Bay, Hiawatha, Brantford, Point Edward and Sault Ste. Marie.

Let’s take a closer look at some of the corresponding data from the earlier Hamilton case scenario projections.

Payment as a percentage of Municipal budgets: For all communities except Point Edward, the direct payments to municipalities constituted between 1.1% and 3.3% of the municipal budgets. Depending on the issue to be addressed, the appropriate percentage will be found within a range of between .5% (for Thunder Bay — 1.1% to 1.6%) and 1.1% (for Brantford — 1.9%to3.0%). The payments are half the size of the PointEdward budget. Although these numbers are not large, they are not insignificant to the municipal governments.

Municipal share of slot revenue: A total of \$13.7M in slots revenues (5%) was made to the five municipalities in 2003/04, the latest year for which data are available.

The amount varies considerable from city to city and year to year and are considered by some an uncertain revenue for city budgeting and planning.

What was the casinos impact on local employment?: Jobs created directly for the Casino attracted prior residents, but many were low paying and part-time. Although the average 570 jobs created by each casino and their salary dollars spent in the community are welcome, a surprising number (40%) are part-time jobs and relatively low-paying.

Unemployment rates: In all communi-

ties and in Ontario as a whole, unemployment rates were lower in the post-opening period than in the pre-opening period.

Another key observation by this report was that the OLGC had very little information and statistical data on the number of employees who reside locally, the portion of non salary expenditures that went to local suppliers, the percentage of original hires who were unemployed at the time of hire and the precise information on wages based on specific job categories.

A relevant concern here is that the OLGC is pushing for municipal casino expansion during a time of a prorogued Ontario Provincial parliament. This leaves the City of Hamilton with incomplete if not poor information, no teeth and little provincial oversight of the arms length Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. So with insufficient data we are left to sift through research reports and data that are at times outdated by 10 years and or lacking the relevant necessary information to make properly informed decisions on the impact these casinos can have on local communities.

On Saturday, November 10th at 2 p.m. the South Sherman Hub invites you to attend a talk about the social and economic impact of casinos on communities. As neighbours we can come together to explore and discuss our viewpoints and experiences, then hopefully leave the conversation feeling better about making decisions on what’s best for our own neighbourhood.

Sources:

“Local Community Impacts of the Charity Casinos” prepared for the Addiction Programs Ontario Ministry of Health by Robert Hann and Associates Limited. December 14th 2005

“The Social and Economic Impacts of a permanent Casino in Hamilton”

Dr. Atif Kurbursi of Econometric Research Limited and Don Jaffray of the Social Research Planning Council

“The Impact of Gambling in Ontario” Kenora Community Consultation <http://www.kenora.ca/portal/uploadedFiles/New%20City/Impact%20of%20Gambling%20in%20Ontario.pdf>

CASINO: Social and Economic Impact

The South Sherman Community Planning Team is hosting an information event about the social and economic impact of casinos.

**Saturday, November 10th
Doors open 1:30 p.m., event starts at 2:00 p.m.
HARRRP: 705 Main St E**

Speakers

Dr. Sarah V. Wayland taught at several Ontario universities before opening her own business in 2003. She has built her reputation as a top-quality researcher and writer specializing in immigration and settlement. Her work also addresses other social issues such as employment, poverty, housing, and literacy. In her hometown of Hamilton, she has worked for the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Community Foundation, Workforce Planning Hamilton, and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. She is a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen, with a PhD in political science from the University of Maryland, and a proud Hamiltonian. As one of her numerous volunteer activities, she serves as Secretary of the St. Joseph Immigrant Women’s Centre in Hamilton.

Rochelle Martin loves living in Hamilton's downtown core with her partner Ron, and three kids. She works as a nurse in Brantford General Hospital's ER, as special-consult RN for crisis, mental health, and addictions issues. Seeing frequent and complex casino-related crises present in Brantford's ER, she is passionately opposed to a downtown casino in Hamilton.

The Journey

By Sean Gibson



The Journey. The Journey is a program that aids in breaching the disconnect between officers and kids through an interactive canoe trip on the Grand River, where youth are partnered with local officers. Our kids were positively impacted by this event, opening and establishing a positive relationship with our Hamilton Police Service at a young age. This

As someone who has the opportunity to intermingle with a wide variety of Hamiltonians, I must admit I have an affinity for our youth. So imagine my dismay when it was brought to my attention by several youth in our community how tumultuous relations were between them and local police officers. In collaboration with Deputy Chief Ken Leendertser and Sandra Wilson, we organized a round table forum where everyone could share their experiences, and brainstorm possible solutions to our current challenges.

After about an hour of healthy dialogue, Deputy Chief Leendertser suggested we identify our youth this year for

event may not be the answer to all of our troubles and woes, but it leaves a really good impression with our kids, and sets an extremely positive precedent in our community. Kids and parents involved are still talking about the event and have left with an optimistic experience.

Thanks to all the officers, including the Deputy Chief himself, for taking part in this event. Thanks and appreciation also go out to Joahna Cruz & Pinky Lewis for helping organize the kids. Together we took steps to better our neighborhood, and with the help of everyone involved it was successful.

The Journey

By Sergeant Barry Mungar

“The Journey” was designed in response to an identified need among Hamilton youth.

The Crime Prevention and Youth Services Branches of the Hamilton Police Service, in partnership with ProAction Cops and Kids, assume partial responsibility for ensuring there is positive interaction between our communities and the police. These branches stress the importance of crime prevention mes-

saging, especially for youths and young adults. In general, young people are an important target because their future can be dramatically altered by their influences and choices. Youths, more now than ever, face a series of mounting challenges: drugs, educational pressures, sexuality, etc. A disconnect with youths can result in negative consequences for the young person, their family and their community. The HPS strive to bridge gaps between officers and youth whenever possible and routinely plan events for that purpose.

Sergeant Barry Mungar #757 is the Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Hamilton Police Service

MY JOURNEY

By Ewan Cunningham



At the beginning of the school year, I was invited to go on a canoe trip with Sean Gibson, a dozen friends from the Wave Program, and Officers from the Hamilton Police Force. We took bus up the Mountain to a river. Each student was paired up with a police officer and we canoed for a couple of hours. It was fun, especially the rapids. I would have never completed the trip without Officer Ellis steering our canoe. He was a great partner. We came in first place. Unfortunately, it rained that day so we were very wet. Thankfully, Sean gave us some Journey shirts. I put mine over my lap to keep me warm. The canoe trip was awesome. The police officers were really nice. Sean Gibson is a terrific community leader. I'm thankful he organized that day for us. I hope we do another challenge next year. I'd like to work with the police again.

Ewan Cunningham is a Grade 9 student at Sir John.A. MacDonald Secondary School



News From Ward 3

By Bernie Morelli

The design of the new Hamilton Pan Am Soccer Stadium has been unveiled by Infrastructure Ontario, TO2015, the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the City of Hamilton. The new 22,500 seat stadium will be located on the current site of Ivor Wynne Stadium. The seating can be expanded up to 40,000 seats. The facility will be barrier-free and fully accessible. The orientation of the stadium will change so the field is North-South. We now look forward to working with Paul Johnson's Neighbourhood Development Strategies Office and the Pan Am Initiatives Office at the City of Hamilton to formulate a strategy of use for the Stadium. We are looking at holding another

public meeting in November to discuss the plan and next steps and implications for the neighbourhood in terms of demolishing the site and re-construction. If you want to receive updates on future meetings, you can register through e-mail at stadiumprecinct@hamilton.ca or call (905) 546-2424, Ext. 5598.

We, along with staff and neighbourhood assistance, continue to aggressively pursue property standards and illegal multiple unit properties, I would again remind you that you should not hesitate to report this to Municipal Law Enforcement at 905-546-2782 or mle@hamilton.ca or contact my office directly at 905-546-2702.

The City of Hamilton's 92nd Annual Mums Show has proven to be another resounding success. This year's theme was The Jungle. Next year's show is from October 18 – 27, 2013 and the theme will be Trains. Kudos to City staff and volunteers who make this a great show every year! This is just another piece of the on-going revitalization of our major neighbourhood park, Hamilton's crown jewel, Gage Park.

Along with the City, I am committed to improving our efforts toward waste diversion. If you should need an extra blue box or if your green cart has been damaged and needs replacement, do not hesitate to call my office at 905-546-2702 and I will arrange to have one delivered.

Since this is the last newspaper issue until the New Year, on behalf of myself and my Executive Assistant Nick Westoll, I wish you and your family Merry Christmas. May you always be blessed with much love, joy, peace and good health throughout the Holiday Season and the New Year.

Should you have any municipal related questions/concerns or would like to discuss any of the issues above, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office at (905) 546-2702, by e-mail at bmorelli@hamilton.ca. We need your input and look forward to working with staff to address your concerns and interests.

EVENT LISTINGS

It's Happening in the Hubs

We would like to promote your local events and programs so please share with us your January and February events by emailing itshappeninginthehubs@gmail.com. Deadline for Jan/Feb issue is December 1st.

Contacts 2 Contracts: Doing Business with the Government Tuesday, November 6, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.: The Small Business Enterprise Centre, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce & Innovation Factory are proud to present a new series of procurement seminars, designed to expand commercial opportunities for Hamilton's small businesses. The first Contacts 2 Contracts seminar will feature representatives from TO2015 and the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, so that Hamilton small businesses can understand the fundamentals of government purchasing and selling goods and services to the public sector. **Pre-registration is required by calling the SBEC at 905-540-6400.**

South Sherman Community Planning Team meeting, Monday, November 5th, 7 p.m. at **St Giles Church, 85 Holton Av at Main.**

Hamilton Santa Claus Parade
Saturday, November 10, 2 p.m.
Be sure to wave at jolly old Saint Nick at this annual family favourite event.
Route: From Queen and Main Streets, east on Main to John Street, north on John to King Street, west on King to Bay Street.
Telephone: 905-387-2682

CASINO: Economic and Social Impact
Hosted by the South Sherman Community Planning Team
Saturday November 10
2 – 3 p.m.
Doors open: 1:30 p.m.
St Peter's HARRRP, 705 Main St E

The Christmas Show
Nov 23 to Nov 25

The Christmas Show is the largest show of its kind in the golden horseshoe, bringing over 100 exhibitors together under one roof. With unique gift ideas, The Christmas Show is the perfect place to start shopping for the holidays. The Show is sure to inspire the Christmas spirit in everyone with home décor seminars, holiday recipe ideas, food and drink sampling, and lots of shopping.

Hours:
Friday 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Admission Prices:
Online: \$8
At the Door: \$10
17 & Under Free
Address: **270 Longwood Rd. South**
Telephone: 905-842-6591

Holiday Train
Saturday December 1, 8 p.m.
Kinnear Yard opposite Gage Park
Making a difference, one stop at a time
The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train hits the rails again in November, visiting over 150 communities across our network. Since the program's inception back in 1999, more than \$6.4 million and over 2.6 million pounds of food has been collected in Canada and the United States.

The goal of the Holiday Train is to collect food and money for local food banks and to raise awareness in the fight against hunger. At each event, the Holiday Train provides a box car stage, a line up of great musical talents and a corporate contribution to the local food bank. The community, in turn, is encouraged to donate food and funds, all of which stays in the community. Items such as infant formula, canned meats, and spaghetti sauce are in popular demand.

Canadian Holiday Train
The Canadian Holiday Train will embark on its three-week journey on November 28 from Beaconsfield, Quebec, finishing up in Port Moody, BC, on December 17. Entertainers on the Canadian train include Doc

Walker, Miss Emily, and the Brothers Dube.

Having an event of interest to South Sherman residents or happening in the South Sherman Hub? The *South Sherman Hub News* is delivered monthly to 12,000 residences and businesses from Wentworth to Gage, Escarpment to the Bay.
Submit your event listings to itshappeninginthehubs@gmail.com
Please include the following:

Name of Event : Date/Time of Event
Name of Organization : Cost of Event
Location : Description of Event (50 words max)
Contact Information

Puddicombe Polar Express
Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16
Step into the magic of Christmas by taking part in our 2 hour holiday special event. Enjoy hot chocolate and special Christmas cookie from Mrs. Clause while visiting our Pullman car (antique train car just like the one in the movies!). Take a magical winter train ride through the estate and visit the North Pole with Santa, the Elves and Mrs. Clause! Children will enjoy making an special Christmas keepsake and story time as well as wine and food pairings for all of the adults. Great picture opportunities with Santa so be sure to bring your cameras! Purchase tickets in advance, space is limited.
Tickets \$15 per person.

Puddicombe Estate Farms & Winery
1468 Hwy. 8 Winona
Telephone: 905-643-1015

South Sherman Community Planning Team meeting and potluck, Monday, December 3rd, 6:30 p.m. at **St Giles Church, 85 Holton Av at Main.**

A Follies Christmas Extravaganza
Dec 5 to Dec 8
McIntyre Theatre: Mohawk College Fennell Campus: 135 Fennell Avenue West (at the corner of West 5th St.)
Telephone: 905-528-8095
The incomparable Follies Variety Show is a rip-roaring musical and comedy extravaganza that features the music, dance and comedy of our times. This Christmas show includes our beautiful 70 voice choir blending their unique sound with that of

the Earl Kitchener Children's Choir. Add to that all of the extraordinary talent the Follies possess, and you have a Christmas show for the ages.

St. Peter's HARRRP: regular activities
905 544-0050 stpeters.harrrip@gmail.com
705 Main St E
Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Hatha Yoga with Melissa (Thursdays 7 – 8 p.m.)
Hamilton Art Society Art Class with Royston (Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
Women's Aerobics with Janice (Tuesday 5:45 – 6:45 p.m., Thursdays 6 – 7 p.m., and Saturdays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.)
Pottery Class with Keith (Saturdays 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.)
Tai Chi with Jerry (Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
Laughter Yoga with Joan (Tuesdays 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. or Wednesdays 1:30 – 3 p.m.)
Internet Cafe (Drop in during centre hours)
Orff Music Instruction for 3 – 5 year olds (Saturdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
Aikido Martial Arts (Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.)
St. Peter's HARRRP: special events
905 544-0050 stpeters.harrrip@gmail.com
705 Main St E
Nov. 3: Voice Concepts Concert by Tom Oliver, 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9: Vegan Pot Luck Dinner, 6 p.m.
Nov. 10: Heather Dale Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 1: Vegan Pot Luck Dinner, 5 p.m.
Dec. 15: Steeltown Symphony Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 16: Voice Concepts Christmas Concert by Tom Oliver, 7:00 p.m.

CITY KIDZ

The City Kidz "Gift of Christmas" was launched in 1995, and was designed to assist our children and families by alleviating some of the personal pressures often experienced and associated with the Christmas season.

This year our campaign kicks in early November with the goal of reaching 4,000 children in our community.

Every year our dream is to bring hope, ease tension and express love in action for Hamilton children by providing an annual Christmas party celebration that includes a Christmas meal and a stocking filled with candies and toys. In addition to the parties, the children receive a personally selected gift delivered to their home. This year our Christmas parties will be held in mid December.

What happens through the Gift of Christmas?

The Gift of Christmas starts with the donation of thousands of gifts for children from people in the greater Hamilton community. The children then gather for energetic and interactive Christmas parties where they share a meal and receive a stocking full of goodies. Hundreds of vol-

unteers sort through the donated toys to select just the right gift that will be perfect for each child. Those volunteers deliver those gifts to each child's door, days before Christmas. Finally, what happens is the children smile, knowing they are loved and that someone who didn't have to thought of them during one of the most important days of a child's year.

This year, with your help, we're hoping that we can bring a smile to over 4000 children. Join us in our effort.

Toy Donation Suggestions

City Kidz accepts new, unwrapped gifts for Boys and Girls from newborns to 12 years of age. Our hope is that each of the kids will receive a gift that is exciting to unwrap and will bring them great joy. Thank you for your support!

Gift of Christmas Toy Drive

City Kidz has expanded our partnership drop off locations to help make our Gift of Christmas toy drive possible. If you are interested in donating toys, you can take them to one of our official drop off locations at Greater Hamilton Canadian Tire, and Hamilton Police Services.

Run a Fundraiser

Thank you very much for your interest in supporting the Gift of Christmas. For your convenience we have put together materi-

als and ideas to help get you started.

Run Your Own Toy Drive

Holding a toy drive is a great way to give back this holiday season. With your help we can give 4000 children the Gift of Christmas. If you are interested in getting your school, workplace, church or public facility involved in a toy drive, please call us at 905-544-3996 ext 207.

Here are just a few ways that you can raise funds with your friends and co-workers:

1. Bake Sales

Put your skills in baking to good use this holiday season. Hold a bake sale at your school, workplace, church or local sports facility in support of the Gift of Christmas.

2. Gourmet Dinner Donation Parties

If your friends are dying for some of your meatloaf, or you cook a mean turkey, hold a gourmet dinner party charging a nominal donation that will go to give a child the Gift of Christmas.

3. Company Donation Matching Program

Work with your co-workers to raise funds this Christmas season, and challenge your workplace to match the funds raised.

4. Christmas Host Donations

Holding a Christmas Party this year? En-



courage your guests to make a donation in lieu of a host/hostess gift.

5. Christmas Carols

Spread the Christmas Cheer this holiday season and carol at local venues or in friendly neighbourhoods and collect donations along the way.

Please visit our Website www.citykidz.ca for more information and to find out more about the City Kidz Big Dream Banquet.

Gift of Christmas
OFFICIAL DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Canadian Tire Upper James
Queenston Rd Canadian Tire
Ancaster Canadian Tire
Barton Canadian Tire
Dundas Canadian Tire
Upper Gage Canadian Tire
Main Street Canadian Tire

East End Hamilton Police Station
Central Hamilton Police Station
Mountain Hamilton Police Station